

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### Arizona Western College Proposed Quartzsite Educational Site Development (AZA 32644)

Dear Interested Party:

Please be advised that an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared (EA-AZ-050-2004-0056) for a proposed Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease for an educational site in the Town of Quartzsite. This EA is a public document, and it is available for your review and comment. The proposed action analyzed in the EA would include portions of the following described public lands:

Gila & Salt River Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona

T. 4 N., R. 19 W.,  
sec. 21, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains approximately 60.00 acres.

The intent of this EA is to analyze site specific environmental effects of a 60-acre education site development. The no action alternative would not authorize the proposed project.

The proposed action would be in conformance with the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended, February 1987.

Copies of the EA are available upon request from, and written comments may be submitted to, *Francisca S. Rodriguez, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, AZ 85365, (928) 317-3237*.

This EA has also been posted on the Arizona State Office's web home page [http://www.az.blm.gov/env\\_docs/proj\\_list.htm](http://www.az.blm.gov/env_docs/proj_list.htm). The deadline for receipt of comments is August 31st. Public comments are welcome and encouraged.

By law, the names and addresses of those commenting are available for public review during regular business hours. However, individual commentors may request that their name and/or address be withheld from the record. These requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment letter. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Heick  
Field Manager



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Yuma Field Office  
2555 East Gila Ridge Road  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
www.az.blm.gov

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

#### For

**EA No. AZ-050-2004-0056**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office, has analyzed a proposal for a Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease for an educational site in the Town of Quartzsite, under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (Act of June 14, 1926, as amended; 43 U.S.C. 869; 869-4). The R&PP lease would provide Arizona Western College the opportunity to expand their facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in population growth and expand their instructional offerings and student support services. The proposed 60-acre R&PP lease would be north of an existing school. This proposal, as well as No Action Alternative are described within the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) No. AZ-050-2004-0056.

The EA is tiered to and in conformance with the *Yuma District Resource Management Plan*, as amended and its *Record of Decision* (BLM, May 1986 & February 1987). The above referenced documents may be viewed at the Yuma Field Office during normal business hours.

The proposed action would assure that no significant adverse impacts would occur to the human environment in the following areas: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Cultural Resources, Environmental Justice, Farm Lands (Prime or Unique), Floodplain, Hazardous or Solid Waste, Native American Religious Concerns, Non-Native Invasive Species, Threatened or Endangered Species, Water Quality (Ground or Surface), Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or Wilderness.

The proposed action does not significantly affect energy supply, distribution, and/or use and therefore a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me as is summarized above, it is my determination that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major Federal Action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

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Rebecca Heick  
Yuma Field Manager

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Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
EA AZ-050-2004-0056  
Serial Number: AZA 32644

FOR

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
PROPOSED QUARTZSITE EDUCATIONAL SITE  
DEVELOPMENT

Prepared for:

Bureau of Land Management  
Yuma Field Office  
2555 East Gila Ridge Road  
Yuma, Arizona 85365

On behalf of:

Arizona Western College  
2020 South Avenue 8E  
Yuma, Arizona 85365

Prepared by:

Riverside Environmental Services, Inc.  
4885 West Riverside Drive  
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(928) 783-3803

JULY 2005

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

The Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District (District) has submitted an *Application For Land For Recreation Or Public Purpose* to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on behalf of Arizona Western College (AWC) for the lease of 60 acres with future conveyance opportunities after the land has been substantially developed for educational purposes. The proposed action consists of the construction and operation of new structures, roadways and recreational areas which would expand the existing joint facility project located on the 24-acre Quartzsite School District parcel currently leased from BLM for classrooms, administrative space, restrooms, parking lot, and playground area. In the next 25 years, both Districts will need to expand their facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in population growth and expand their instructional offerings and student support services. The location of the property sought by the District is north of the Quartzsite Elementary School. The description of the 60-acre parcel is as follows:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 21, Township 4 N., Range 19 W., Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona, lying east and adjacent to North Kofa Road.

### 1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed expansion to the existing District's joint facility project is to improve and expand the instructional offerings and student support services offered by the construction of new buildings, roadways and recreational areas. The town of Quartzsite, Arizona is growing at a rapid annual rate and the area population now exceeds 3,400 year round residents. Based upon the current population growth of permanent residences in the area, the present joint facility project will not be sufficient to meet future educational needs. The 60 acres adjacent to the Quartzsite Elementary School is essential to continuing our partnership to pool and conserve resources, combine services, and share personnel and facilities in order to minimize the cost of providing quality education. This parcel will provide ample space for both Districts to meet educational needs for the next 25 years. The District currently has a Facilities Master Plan that incorporates anticipated educational needs through the year 2015.

### 1.3 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations and Plans

This document is being prepared in compliance with Federal guidelines including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council of Environmental Quality Implementation Procedures outlined in Part 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and the Department of the Interior and BLM policies and manuals. The proposed action would be authorized in accordance with the regulations found at 43 CFR 2912 and the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (Act of June 14, 1926, as amended; 43 U.S.C. 869; 869-4).

## **1.4 Land Use Plan Conformance**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is tiered to the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as amended, February 1987. The RMP states that lands cases will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with decisions established in the RMP (BLM 1992, page 8).

## **1.5 Decision to be Made**

The District has submitted an *Application For Land For Recreation Or Public Purpose* to the BLM on behalf of AWC to construct and operate the proposed project. The BLM is responsible for the decision regarding issuing the lease and associated stipulations. In particular, this document would provide the basis for determining whether the proposed project would result in significant impacts to resources and what, if any, mitigation can be applied to reduce impacts and if the proposed action is in the public interest.

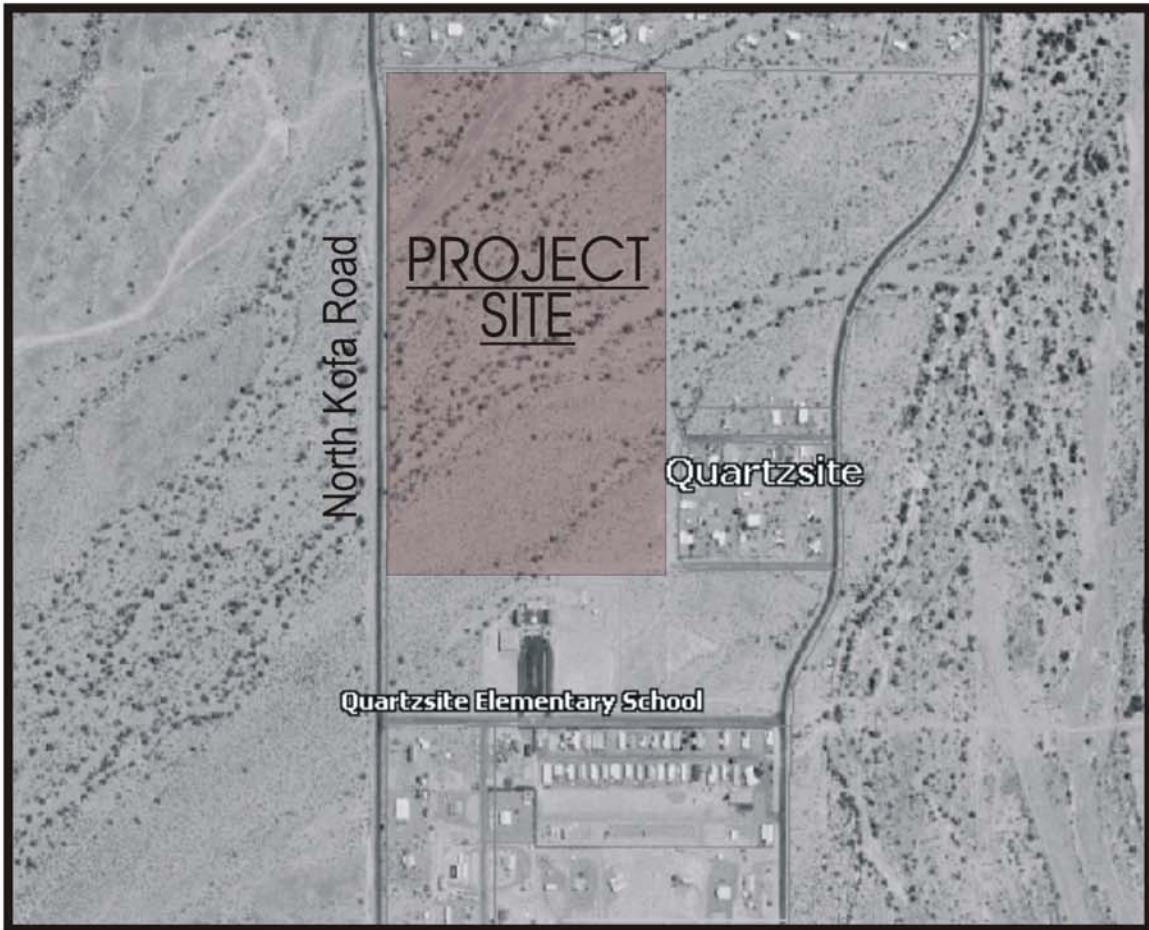
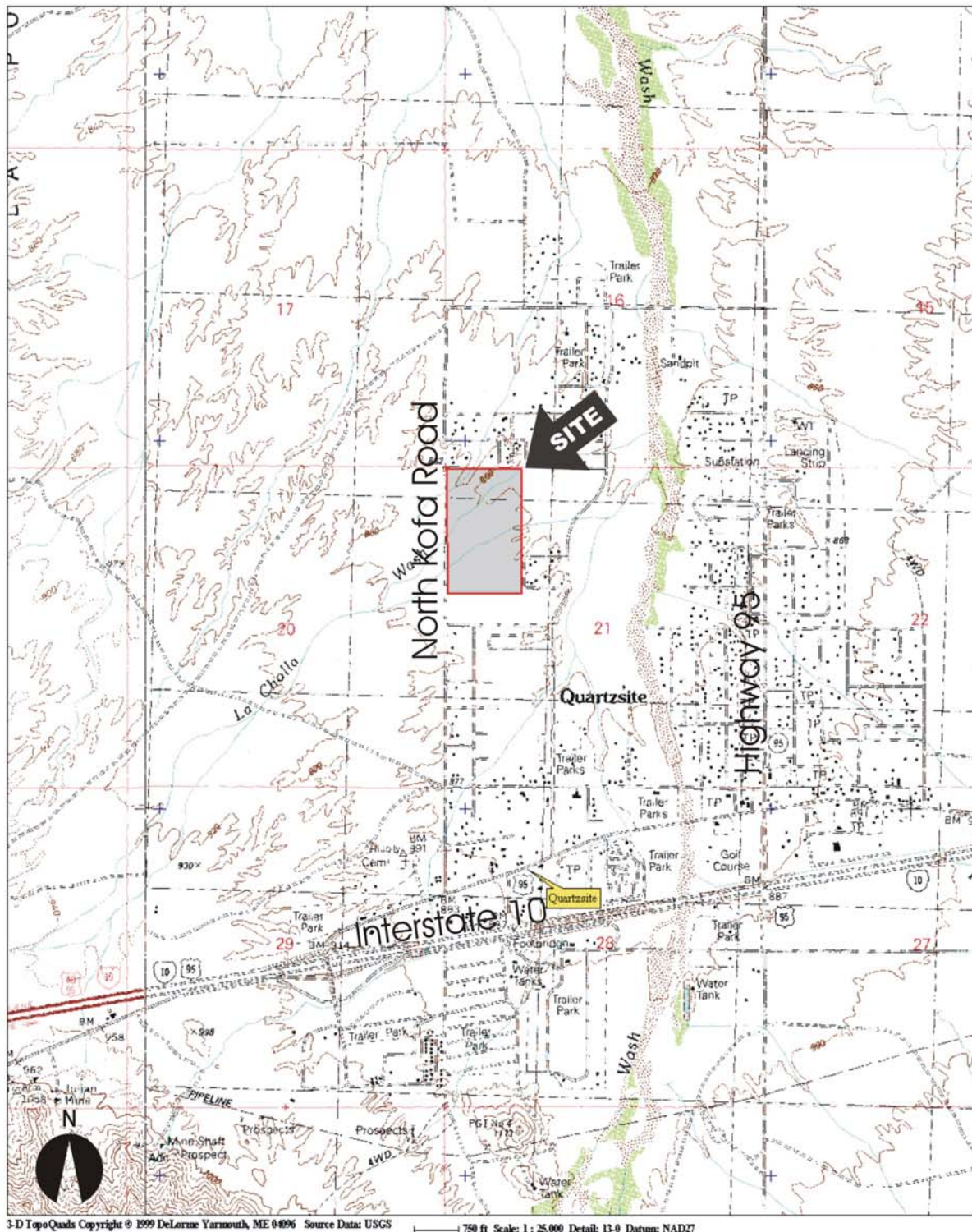


Figure 1: SITE MAP  
AWC Proposed Quartzsite Educational Site  
North Kofa Road - Quartzsite, Arizona

05/21/2004  
Riverside Environmental Services, Inc.  
4885 W. Riverside Dr. - Yuma, AZ 85364  
(928) 783-3803 ~ (928) 782-0713 FAX





**Figure 2: VICINITY MAP**  
 AWC Proposed Quartzsite Educational Site  
 North Kofa Road - Quartzsite, Arizona

— = 750 feet  
 1: 25,000

05/18/2004

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## 2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

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### 2.1 Introduction

The following section reviews the alternatives that were considered to meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternatives. A project description is provided, including activities anticipated during pre-construction, construction, and operation and maintenance.

### 2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed educational site is one comprising 60 acres contiguous to the Quartzsite School District No. 4 property located northwest of Quartzsite, Arizona. The affected lands are described as follows:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 21, Township 4 N., Range 19 W., Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona

The District requests that the site, described as a 60-acre parcel located north of Quartzsite Elementary School and east of North Kofa Road, be leased by the BLM under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) to the District with future conveyance opportunities at the end of a 25-year lease period for educational purposes. Pursuant to an agreement between the District and Quartzsite School District No. 4 in 1994 and amended in 1995, the two districts have developed a partnership to pool and maximize the use of their resources to provide quality education and services to the residents of southern La Paz County. This land will be used for educational purposes only. It is proposed that additional classrooms for both K through 6 and higher educational needs be constructed. Additionally, administrative space, support facilities, playgrounds, libraries, parking lots and other structures required for the delivery of instruction and student support services will be required.

The plan is to initially incorporate the concept for improvement and development of this parcel into the District's Facilities Master Plan within the first two years. This will include initiating a needs analysis for the area and identifying shortfalls in the existing facilities currently being used to see what additional assets will be needed in the future. Space management criteria and master plan governing principles will be applied to more narrowly identify what additional facilities will be needed. Future capital fund resources will need to be identified for the first five years of the development plan. The following priorities are established for the accomplishment of this plan:

- Adoption of the development concept into the Facilities Master Plan;
- Incorporation of the plan into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP);
- Identify funding sources for capital expenditures;
- Develop architectural and engineering concept drawings for the site and facility improvements.
- Approval of concept plans by the AWC District Governing Board.
- Approval of zoning conformance by the town of Quartzsite.
- Development of construction plans for site work for joint-use recreational areas and other civil-related improvements.
- Drafting of building plans for near-term (10 years) educational requirements;
- Construction of site work and other site improvements;

- Construction of near-term facilities; and
- Pursue 10 to 25 year capital requirements.

A list of Special Stipulations (Exhibit B) provided by the BLM will be adhered to during the proposed action.

### **2.3 No Action**

Under the no action alternative, no new educational site improvements consisting of classrooms, administrative space, support facilities, playgrounds, libraries, parking lots or other structures required for the delivery of instruction and student support services will be built in the area, which would continue to be served by the existing education structures and services. This alternative would result in no expansion of educational facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in population growth. Under the No Action Alternative, the R&PP lease for the proposed educational site would not be issued.

## **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

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### **3.1 General Setting**

The project site lies east of North Kofa Road and is located in the town of Quartzsite approximately 1.0 mile north of Interstate 10 and 0.75 miles west of State Highway 95. La Cholla Wash runs diagonally across the north half of the site. The project site is located approximately 2.5 miles east of the Dome Rock Mountains and 2.5 miles north-northeast of Granite Mountain with the Kofa, New Water and Plomosa Mountains in the vicinity. Tyson Wash was observed approximately 0.5 mile east of the project site.

Previously disturbed areas caused by vehicular traffic were found throughout the site. Climate in the project area is typical of the arid southwest, which is characterized by long, hot summers and mild winters. Average rainfall is approximately three inches. Elevation at the project site ranges from approximately 860 to 880 feet above mean sea level with the lowest elevation being at the northeast corner and the highest elevation being at the southwest corner.

### **3.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns**

The area contains no BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

### **3.3 Soils and Minerals**

Mining operations have been associated with the area around the town of Quartzsite since the late 1800's but the area is now known for the numerous gem and mineral shows that occur yearly. No mines were observed or reported at the project area. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service – Yuma Office, no official survey has been done for Quartzsite. The Arizona General Soil Map does include Quartzsite and the surrounding areas. This general survey characterizes the soil in the project area to be a Gunsight-Rillito-Pinal Association or a Harqual-Perryville-Gunsight Association. The general survey defines the associations as the following descriptions. The Gunsight-Rillito-Pinal Association is a deep and shallow, limy,

gravelly, medium and moderately coarse-textured, nearly level to strongly sloping soils on alluvial surfaces and valley plains. These soils were formed in calcareous, old mixed alluvium derived from volcanic rocks, schist, limestone and granite. The Harqual-Perryville-Gunsight Association is a deep, gravelly, moderately fine-textured, and gravelly, limy, medium-textured, nearly level to moderately sloping soils on old fan surfaces. These soils were formed in old alluvium derived from volcanic and calcareous sedimentary rocks. Many areas are saline and sodic.

### **3.4 Air Quality**

Air quality in the project vicinity is usually high due to the remoteness from urban areas, but may decline for short periods because of blowing dust from natural sources within the project site and to the west of the project area.

### **3.5 Noise**

Ambient noise is minimal within the proposed project site, with intermittent noises from passing vehicles.

### **3.6 Water Quality (Ground and Surface)**

No permanent surface water sources were observed in the project area. Ephemeral washes (including Cholla Wash) were observed in the north portion of the site. These washes flow only in response to heavy rains in the surrounding higher elevations. Groundwater was utilized in the project area for drinking water.

### **3.7 Cultural Resources**

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center (OPAC) conducted a Class III cultural resources survey of the Area of Potential Effect on February 11, 2004. The records searched by OPAC revealed that there are 12 historical sites, 13 prehistoric sites, and three sites of unknown age previously recorded within a mile radius of the project area. In addition, site AZ-050-576 (BLM), since assigned ASM designation AZ R:8:106 (ASM), was located inside the project area. This prehistoric site was described in previous AZSITE records as six sleeping circles or cleared areas in the desert pavement, several rock circles, and a light scatter of quartz flakes in an approximately 20-meter diameter area. According to these records, the BLM-Yuma Field Office did not consider this site eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places when it was originally recorded in 1981. OPAC concurred with this assessment.

OPAC reviewed the General Land Office (GLO) map dated 1919 and curated at the Bureau of Land Management Tucson Field Office. According to these maps, one historic road crossed the southeast corner of the project area. OPAC did not find any evidence of this road on the ground during survey, and claims that it appeared to have been destroyed by historical and modern vehicular traffic.

Isolated historical artifacts were found during OPAC's survey of the site including two Number 1 tall condensed milk cans and two hole-in-top food cans (both types produced throughout the

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). The four cans were observed in a disturbed area in the southwest end of the parcel and south of an unnamed tributary to La Cholla Wash.

### **3.8 Native American Religious Concerns**

BLM initiated consultation with approximately 30 tribes with a letter dated August 12, 2004. The results of this consultation will be incorporated into the final Environmental Assessment.

### **3.9 Farm Lands (Prime or Unique)**

No prime or unique farm land was observed at or near the project area.

### **3.10 Floodplains**

No floodplains were located in the proposed project area or within 1.0 miles of the project area according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) electronic flood data coverage obtained by Environmental Data Resources (EDR) and provided in the NEPA Check<sup>®</sup> report (Exhibit C). La Cholla Wash and other ephemeral water ways were located in the northern portion of the site and have floodplains associated with them in times of intermittent high flow.

### **3.11 Biological Resources**

This section characterizes the biological resources that are present in the study area and identifies areas and species of concern. The inventory contains the wildlife, vegetation types, and known and potential habitat for special status species. Special-status species are those species listed by the government as endangered, threatened, or candidate species for listing, in addition to species of concern to the BLM and the State of Arizona. The information in this section was provided in a Biological Evaluation (refer to Exhibit D) conducted by SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) in April 2004.

#### **3.11.1 Wildlife**

Wildlife observed in the area included mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) and packrat (*Neotoma* sp.). These species were either observed directly or detected through sign during SWCA's site visit. Other wildlife species common to the Lower Colorado River Valley subdivision of the Sonoran Desert scrub biotic community as defined by Brown (1994) would also be expected to occur in the project area.

#### **3.11.2 Threatened, Endangered, or Special Status Animal Species**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted for a list of Federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species that may occur within the project area. Nine special status species were revealed:

- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*);
- Bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*);

- California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*);
- Desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius macularius* and *eremus*);
- Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*);
- Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*);
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*);
- Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*); and
- Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*).

The first eight are listed by the USFWS as threatened, or endangered, and are protected under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The yellow-billed cuckoo is listed as a candidate and receives no statutory protection under ESA (certain State and Federal agencies occasionally require surveys for these species). Based on the results of the Biological Evaluation (SWCA Environmental Consultants 2004), no endangered, threatened, candidate, proposed endangered, or proposed threatened species are known to occur regularly within the project area. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AGFD) Heritage Data Management System, there were 3 records of special status species within 3 miles of the project area: 1) Sonoran desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) – listed as wildlife of Special Concern (WSCA) in Arizona by AGFD and a Species of Concern under the ESA, 2) California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*) – listed as WSCA in Arizona by AGFD, Sensitive by the BLM and a Species of Concern under the ESA, and 3) Cave myotis bat (*Myotis velifer*) – listed as Sensitive by the BLM and a Species of Concern under the ESA. No Sonoran desert tortoises or carapaces were found during the site visit. The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Sonoran desert tortoise; however, it is possible that the desert tortoise may occasionally wander through the project area. While the project area does contain suitable foraging habitat for the California leaf-nosed bat or the cave myotis bat, it is possible that the bats forage within the project area occasionally. No areas for potential roost sites were observed during the site visit.

### 3.11.3 Vegetation

The vegetation is described as the Lower Colorado River Valley subdivision of the Sonoran desert scrub biotic community as defined by Brown (1994). Two types of vegetation exist within this community: upland and xeroriparian vegetation. The dominant upland vegetation found at the project site consists of blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentate*), wheelscale saltbush (*Atriplex elegans*) and desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*). The dominant xeroriparian vegetation (associated with ephemeral water supplies) found at the project site consists of velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), smoke tree (*Psoralea argemone*), catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*), and desert hackberry (*Celtis pallida*). The project area consisted mostly of undisturbed native vegetation and did not include any saguaros or broadleaf deciduous trees. Plants observed within the project area that are protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law (category of protection is in parentheses): blue paloverde (salvage assessed), foothill paloverde (salvage assessed), all cacti specifically strawberry hedgehog (salvage restricted), velvet mesquite (harvest restricted; salvage assessed), and desert ironwood (harvest restricted; salvage assessed). Salvage Assessed categorized plants have a significant value if salvaged. Harvest Restricted categorized plants require permits to remove plant by-products (fuel wood).

#### **3.11.4 Threatened, Endangered, or Special Status Plant Species**

No threatened or endangered plants or special status species were observed or reported for the proposed project site or the surrounding project area (SWCA Environmental Consultants 2004).

#### **3.11.5 Non-Native Invasive Species**

No non-native invasive species were noted by SWCA to occur at the proposed project site.

#### **3.12 Hazardous or Solid Waste**

No hazardous or solid waste was observed at or reported to be associated with the project site.

#### **3.13 Wild or Scenic Rivers**

No wild or scenic rivers were observed or reported for the proposed project site or the surrounding project area. The Colorado River is located approximately 17 miles west of the project area.

#### **3.14 Visual Resource Management**

The visual setting in the project area is dominated by native vegetation with washes running through the north portion of the site. This type of setting is continued on the west side of the site (west of North Kofa Road). Residential areas of Quartzsite are found north and west of the site with the Quartzsite Elementary School located south of the site. The project area is within the Visual Resource Management Class III.

#### **3.15 Wetlands/Riparian Zones**

No wetlands were reported for the proposed project area or within 1.0 mile of the project area according to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory data obtained by EDR and provided in the NEPA Check<sup>®</sup> report (Exhibit C) and the site visit.

#### **3.16 Wilderness (State or National Parks, Forests, Conservation Areas)**

No State or natural parks, forests or conservation areas were observed or reported for the proposed project site or the surrounding project area.

#### **3.17 Socioeconomic Resources**

The purpose of this section is to identify the main characteristics of the population in the study area including demographics, racial diversity, housing, principal economic activities, and employment and income. The proposed project area is located within the Town of Quartzsite in La Paz County, Arizona. The socioeconomic data were collected from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

### **3.17.1 Demographics**

Census data (2000) indicate the total population of the Town of Quartzsite to be 3,354. The population increased 45% from 1990 when only 1,833 people were reported. The population was 94.5% white, 1.2% American Indian, 0.3% Asian, 0.2% African American, and 0.1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. cOf these reported populations 5.0% indicated Hispanic origins. La Paz County as a whole is 74.2% white with 22.4% of the population indicating Hispanic ancestry. The population numbers of the study area suggest that Quartzsite's population is disproportionately white (non-Hispanic ancestry).

### **3.17.2 Principal Economic Activities**

Retail trade and recreation services (arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services) are the primary economic activities and jobs provided in the area. Public administration and other services provide additional employment in the area (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000).

### **3.17.3 Employment and Income**

In 2000, the civilian labor force for the Town of Quartzsite was 648 persons with an unemployment rate of 6.2%. The median household income was \$23,053. Low-income populations are present within Quartzsite with 7.8% of families and 13.5% of individuals being below poverty levels.

### **3.17.4 Environmental Justice**

Environmental Justice directs that programs, policies and activities not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environment effect on minority and low-income populations. Low-income populations are present within La Paz County and the Town of Quartzsite. There are limited minority populations in the vicinity of the project site. No specific issues or concerns associated with the proposed development have been identified that may adversely impact minority or low-income groups.

## **3.18 Energy Policy**

The area contains no features related to energy development, production, supply or distribution.



## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

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### **4.1 Impacts from the Proposed Action**

#### **4.1.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

No impacts would occur to ACECs from the proposed action as none occur within the project area.

#### **4.1.2 Soil and Minerals**

No impacts would occur to the visual setting from the proposed action due to the proposed construction being consistent with the development in the area.

#### **4.1.3 Air Quality**

Air quality impacts are anticipated to be negligible for the proposed project. Temporary air pollutant emissions during construction would include dust from construction and emissions from construction equipment. The proposed project will not generate air pollutants after completion of construction. All air pollutant emissions would be temporary and disperse quickly.

#### **4.1.4 Noise**

The proposed action is not expected to result in long-term noise impacts. Noise impacts during construction will be temporary.

#### **4.1.5 Water Quality (Ground and Surface)**

The proposed action is not expected to result in a change in water quality.

#### **4.1.6 Cultural Resources**

No historic properties (sites eligible to the National Register) would be impacted by the proposed project. The only known site inside the project area—designated AZ R:8:106 (ASM)—is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register, and will likely be destroyed by project activities.

#### **4.1.7 Native American Religious Concerns**

BLM initiated consultation with approximately 30 tribes with a letter dated August 12, 2004. The results of this consultation will be incorporated into the final Environmental Assessment.

#### **4.1.8 Farm Land (Prime or Unique)**

No farmland will be impacted by the proposed development.

#### **4.1.9 Floodplains**

The proposed action would not impact the floodplain associated with the La Cholla Wash that runs through the northern section of the Site.

#### **4.1.10 Biological Resources**

During construction, it is likely that wildlife would be disturbed. Wildlife would not be anticipated to return to the project area following construction. Therefore, 60 acres of wildlife habitat would be permanently disturbed. The clearing of natural vegetation would be limited to that necessary for construction. Disturbance of native plants, including paloverde, cacti, mesquite, and ironwood, would be avoided to the degree possible. When avoidance is not possible plants would be salvaged in accordance with the Arizona Native Plant Law. As there are no Federally listed threatened or endangered plant and species that occur within or near the project site, no impacts to Federally-listed species would occur from the proposed project. The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Sonoran desert tortoise; however, it is possible that the desert tortoise may occasionally wander through the project area. If desert tortoises are encountered within the project area during construction, the AGFD "Guidelines for the Handling of Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects" (Exhibit E) should be followed by personnel with an AGFD Scientific Collection Permit. While the project area does contain suitable foraging habitat for the California leaf-nosed bat or the cave myotis bat, no areas for potential roost sites were observed during the site visit. Bat foraging habitat in developed areas would be permanently disturbed. Construction activities could introduce non-native invasive plant species to the project area. Following the stipulations in Exhibit B would help prevent and mitigate these impacts.

#### **4.1.11 Hazardous or Solid Waste**

No hazardous or solid waste was observed on the project site that would impact the proposed project or area.

#### **4.1.12 Wild or Scenic Rivers**

No wild or scenic rivers occur within the project area that would be impacted by the proposed action.

#### **4.1.13 Visual Resource Management**

Implementation of the proposed action would have no adverse Visual Resource Management impacts.

#### **4.1.14 Wetlands/Riparian Zones**

No wetlands or riparian zones exist in the project area that would be impacted by the proposed project.

#### **4.1.15 Wilderness (State or National Parks, Forests, Conservation Areas)**

No State or national parks, forests or conservation areas occur within the project area that would be impacted by the proposed project.

#### **4.1.16 Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice**

The proposed project is intended to service existing and future populations in the area. No adverse impacts to the local communities are anticipated, and consequently no disproportionate impacts to minority or low-income populations are expected. The proposed project would provide improved and expanded instructional offerings and student support services in the community.

#### **4.1.17 Energy Policy**

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no adverse energy impacts.

### **4.2 Impacts from the No Action Alternative**

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no new education site. This alternative would result in no expansion of educational facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in population growth. The no action alternative would have no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the following critical elements: ACECs, soils and minerals, air quality, noise, water quality (ground or surface), cultural resources, Native American religious concerns, farmlands (prime or unique), floodplains, hazardous or solid waste, wild or scenic rivers, Visual Resource Management, wetlands or riparian zones, wilderness (State or national parks, forests or conservation areas), socioeconomic resources or energy policy. Wildlife in the area of the construction would be permanently disturbed, including bat foraging areas, and displaced.

### **4.3 Cumulative Impacts**

The proposed action would occur in an area of development and would only add to the expansion of services in the area. Implementing the proposed action is not expected to result in adverse cumulative impacts.

### **4.4 Mitigation**

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Sonoran desert tortoise; however, it is possible that the desert tortoise may occasionally wander through the project area. If desert tortoises are encountered within the project area during construction, the AGFD "Guidelines for the Handling of Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects" (Exhibit E) should be followed by personnel with an AGFD Scientific Collection Permit.

Construction activities could introduce non-native invasive plant species to the project area. Following the stipulations in Exhibit B would help prevent and mitigate these impacts.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

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The following persons and agencies were contacted or consulted during preparation of this EA:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Neil Hoy

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office

Stephen Fusilier, Team Lead, Lands and Minerals

Francisca S. Rodriguez, Realty Specialist

Sandra Arnold, Archaeologist

Steven Bonar, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Jeffrey Young, Wildlife Biologist

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Ginger L. Ritter, Heritage Data Management System, Data Specialist

Arizona Western College

Dan Hann, Vice President, Business and Administrative Services

William Cheatham, Member AWC Governing Board

## 6.0 REFERENCES

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Bureau of Land Management. 2003. Environmental Assessment No. AZ-050-2004-0005 for Fisher Sand and Gravel Ehrenberg Material Source. October.

Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Environmental Assessment for Saddle Mountain to Hyder 69kV Subtransmission Line Project. November.

Environmental Data Resources. 2004. EDR NEPA Check<sup>®</sup> Proposed AWC Quartzsite Property, North Kofa Road, Quartzsite, Arizona. April.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center. 2004. Cultural Resources Survey of 60 Acres East of North Kofa Road and North of West Quail Trail Road in Quartzsite, La Paz County, Arizona. February.

SWCA Environmental Consultants. 2004. Biological Evaluation for the Arizona Western College 60-Acre Project Area in Quartzsite, La Paz County, Arizona. April.

## APPENDICES

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## EXHIBIT A

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## **PROPOSED QUARTZSITE EDUCATIONAL SITE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

### **1. Description**

The proposed educational site is one comprising 60 acres contiguous to the Quartzsite School District No. 4 property located northwest of Quartzsite, Arizona. The Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District request that this site be leased by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the District with future conveyance opportunities at the end of a 25 year period for educational purposes. Pursuant to an agreement between the Yuma/LaPaz Counties Community College District and Quartzsite School District No. 4 in 1994 and amended in 1995, the two districts have developed a partnership to pool and maximize the use of our resources to provide quality education and services to the residents of southern LaPaz County.

The two Districts completed a joint facility project in 1995 on the approximately 24 acre Quartzsite School parcel currently leased from BLM for classrooms, administrative space, restrooms, parking lot, and playground area for the existing educational needs of the community. In the next twenty five years both Districts will need to expand our facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in population growth and expand our instructional offerings and student support services.

This request for 60 acres is the minimum required to meet our twenty five year needs for new structures, roadways and recreational areas due to a significant portion (approximately 10%) not being suitable for construction because of active washes traversing the area.

### **2. Statement of Need**

The Town of Quartzsite, Arizona is growing at a rapid annual rate and the area population now exceeds 3400 year round residents. Based upon the current population growth of permanent residents in the area, the present 24 acre leased parcel will not be sufficient to meet future educational needs. The 60 acres adjacent to the Quartzsite Elementary School is essential to continuing our partnership to pool and conserve resources, combine services, and share personnel and facilities in order to minimize the cost of providing quality education. This parcel will provide ample space for both districts to grow and expand educational services to meet educational needs for the next 25 years.

The College District currently has a Facilities Master Plan that incorporates anticipated educational needs through the year 2015. Along with the projections for the main campus in Yuma, needs for expanded services in LaPaz County were identified for the Parker, Arizona area. If this land lease is approved by BLM, an



amendment to the master plan will be drafted to incorporate the need for additional services in Quartzsite.

### **3. Location**

The property sought by the District is north of the Quartzsite Elementary School. The legal description of the 60 acre parcel is as follows:

NW ¼, NW ¼, Section 21, and the N ½, SW ¼, NW ¼ Section 21, Township 4N, Range 19W, Gila and Salt River Meridian. This parcel lies to the east and adjacent to North Kofa Road.

### **4. Use**

This land will be used for educational purposes only. It is proposed that additional classrooms for both K through 6 and higher educational needs be constructed. Additionally, administrative space, support facilities, playgrounds, libraries, parking lots and other structures required for the delivery of instruction and student support services will be required. The construction and development of the acreage will be accomplished as the area population grows and as capital funding becomes available. The 60 acres is essential to our plans for growth and expansion and fundamental to the continuance of the partnership among area public education providers. The lease and ultimate acquisition of this property will permit us to move forward with planning for our short and long term goals to meet the educational needs of the residents of southern LaPaz County.

### **5. Concurrence for project**

Concurrence in this project has been received from the Arizona Western College District Governing Board. The Town of Quartzite and the Superintendent of Quartzsite School District No. 4 have provided support for the purchase of this land. Documentation of such is included in this application.

### **6. Description of Proposed Improvements and Development Plan**

The plan is to initially incorporate the concept for improvement and development of this parcel into the College's Facilities Master Plan within the first two years. This will include initiating a needs analysis for the area and identifying shortfalls in the existing facilities currently being used to see what additional assets will be needed in the future. Space management criteria and master plan governing principles will be applied to more narrowly identify what additional facilities will be needed. Future capital fund resources will also be needed to be identified for the first five years of the development plan.

The following priorities are established for the accomplishment of this plan:

- A. Approval of application for land lease
- B. Adoption of development concept into Facilities Master Plan
- C. Incorporation of plan into Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- D. Identify funding resources for capital expenditures
- E. Architectural and engineering concept drawings for site and facility improvements. Approval of concept plans by AWC District Governing Board (DGB).
- F. Development of construction plans for sitework for joint use recreational areas and other civil-related improvements.
- G. Drafting of building plans for near-term (10 years) educational requirements.
- H. Construction of Sitework and other site improvements
- I. Construction of near-term facilities
- J. Pursue 10-25 year capital requirements.

## 7. Timelines and Budget for Development Plan

<u>Year One</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Approval of lease application to include NEPA	\$7,000
Annual Lease Fee	\$ 120
 <u>Year Two</u>	
Adoption of Concept into Facilities Master Plan	\$5,500
Annual Lease Fee	\$ 120
 <u>Year Three</u>	
Incorporate into CIP & identify funding sources	\$3,000
Annual Lease Fee	\$ 120
 <u>Years Four &amp; Five</u>	
Site concept drawings & AWC DGB Approval	\$10,000
Annual Lease Fee	\$ 240
 <u>Years Six thru Ten</u>	
Sitework planning	\$ 15,000
Near-term building planning	\$ 30,000
Construction of Sitework improvements	\$650,000
And Phase 1 construction	
Annual Lease Fee	\$ 600

Years Eleven thru twenty five

Pursue Phase 2 of capital improvements  
Annual Lease Fee

TBD  
\$1,800

**8. Management Plan**

In consideration for a lease and eventual conveyance of the BLM lands, the Yuma/LaPaz Counties Community College District agrees to the following commitments with the full knowledge that the commitments will be incorporated by reference in the conveyance of the subject lands:

1. To pay a \$100.00 filing fee, conduct the appropriate environmental investigation for said property prior to lease, pay \$2.00 per acre for the annual rental of said land, and agrees to pay \$10.00 per acre when the property is conveyed to the District.
2. To ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat 241) as to access to the land and facilities.
3. To maintain the land for public educational purposes.
4. To verify with the Town of Quartzsite that they support the proposed school use of this property and submit written conformation to BLM.
5. To provide BLM written confirmation that the Quartzsite School District No.4 support the land agreement.
6. To develop and construct an educational complex that will grow as LaPaz County and the Town of Quartzsite grows.
7. To maintain the facilities on this land in a satisfactory condition.
8. To manage the project in accordance with the Development Plan.



# TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH RANGE 19 WEST OF THE GILA AND SALT RIVER MERIDIAN, ARIZONA

LA PAZ COUNTY

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN  
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

MTP  
SUPPL SECS 21,23,24,26

INDEX TO SEGREGATED TRACTS	SECTION	SUBSECTION
21	1	1
21	1	2
21	1	3
21	1	4
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FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROVISION OF USE OF THE LAND, THE LANDS WITHIN THE ASSOCIATED PUBLIC DOMAIN ARE SEPARATED INTO SEGREGATED TRACTS TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROVISION OF USE OF THE LAND.

TRACT NO 1

TRACT NO 2

TRACT NO 3

TRACT NO 4

TRACT NO 5

TRACT NO 6

TRACT NO 7

TRACT NO 8

TRACT NO 9

TRACT NO 10

TRACT NO 11

TRACT NO 12

TRACT NO 13

TRACT NO 14

TRACT NO 15

TRACT NO 16

TRACT NO 17

TRACT NO 18

TRACT NO 19

TRACT NO 20

TRACT NO 21

TRACT NO 22

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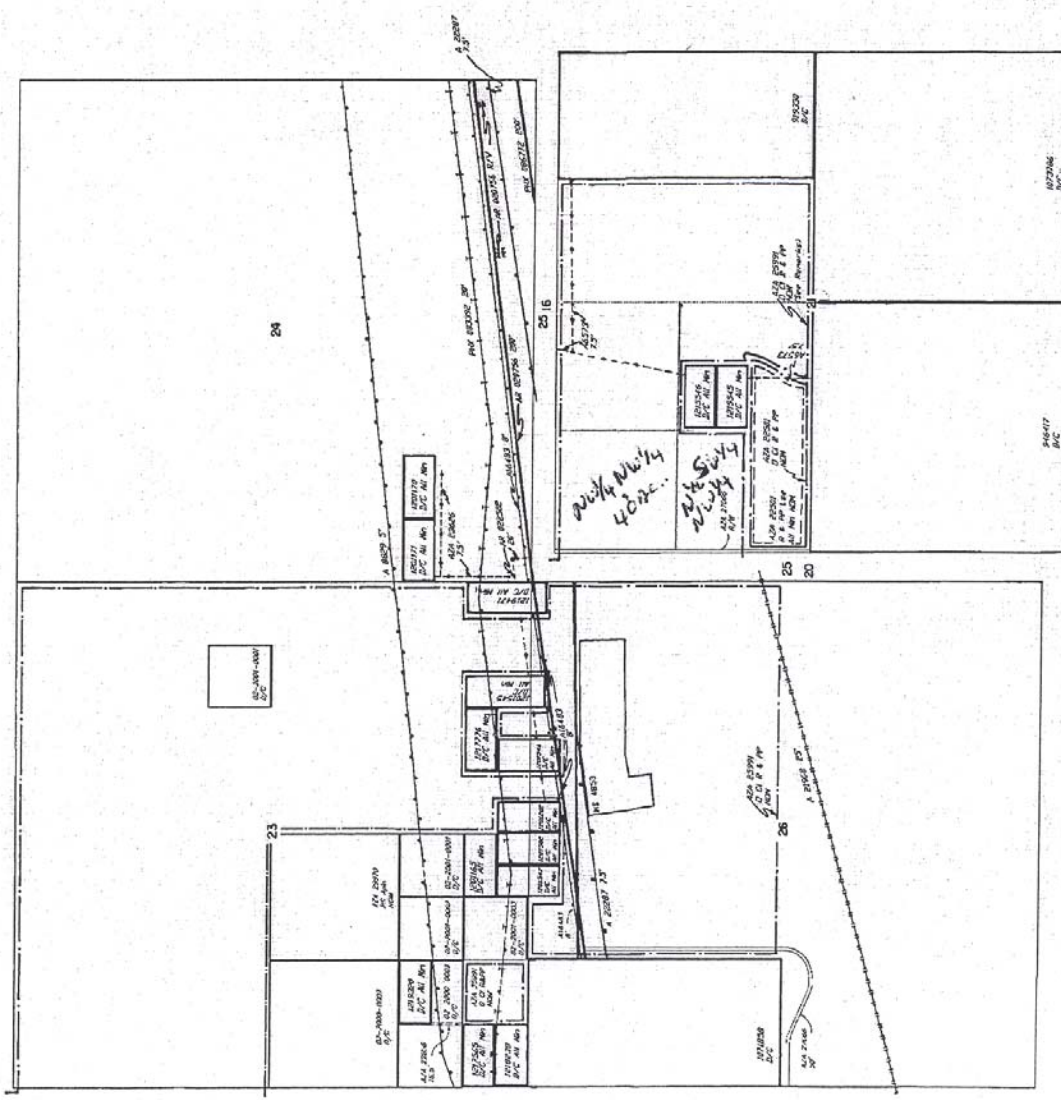
TRACT NO 96

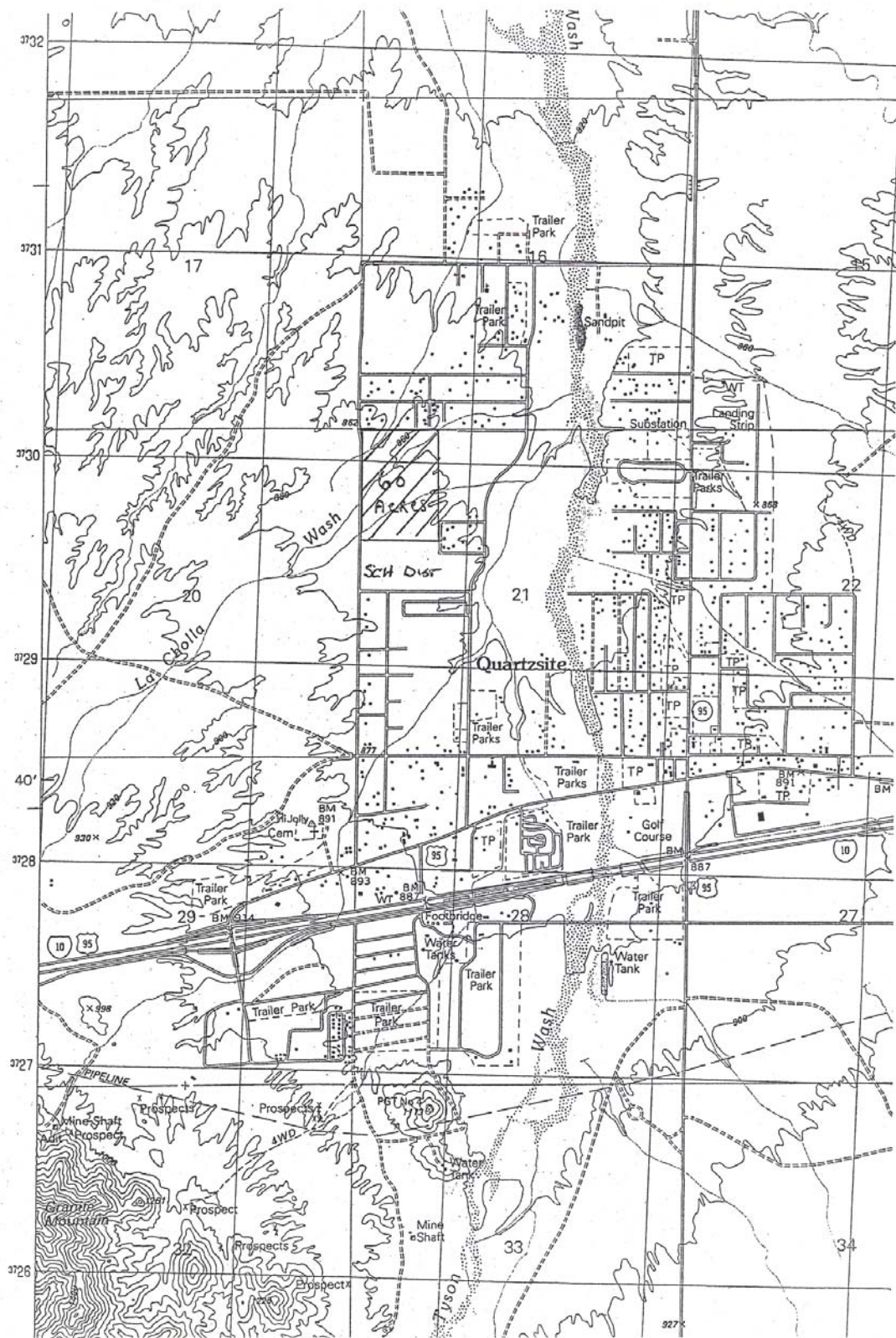
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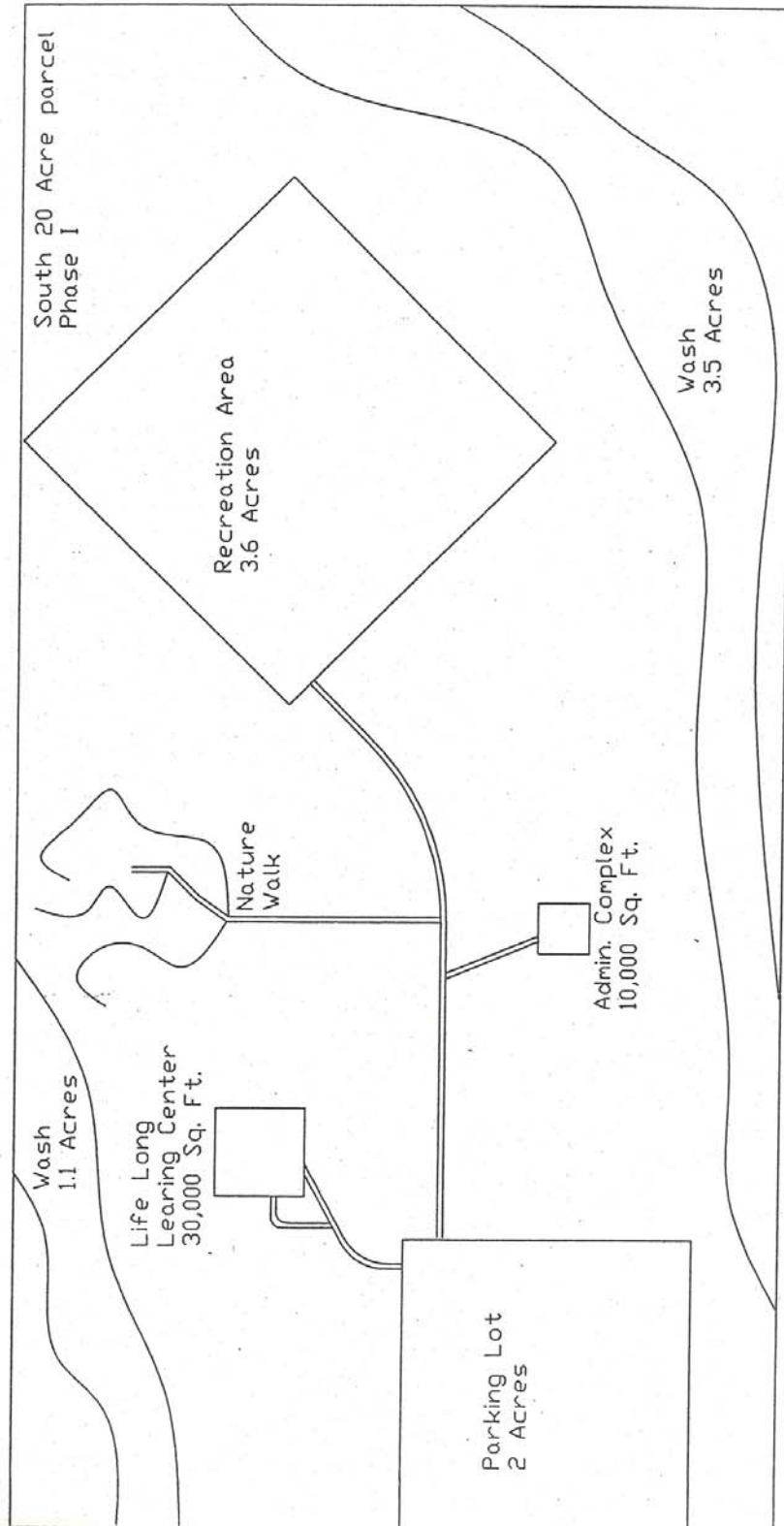
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TRACT NO 99

TRACT NO 100



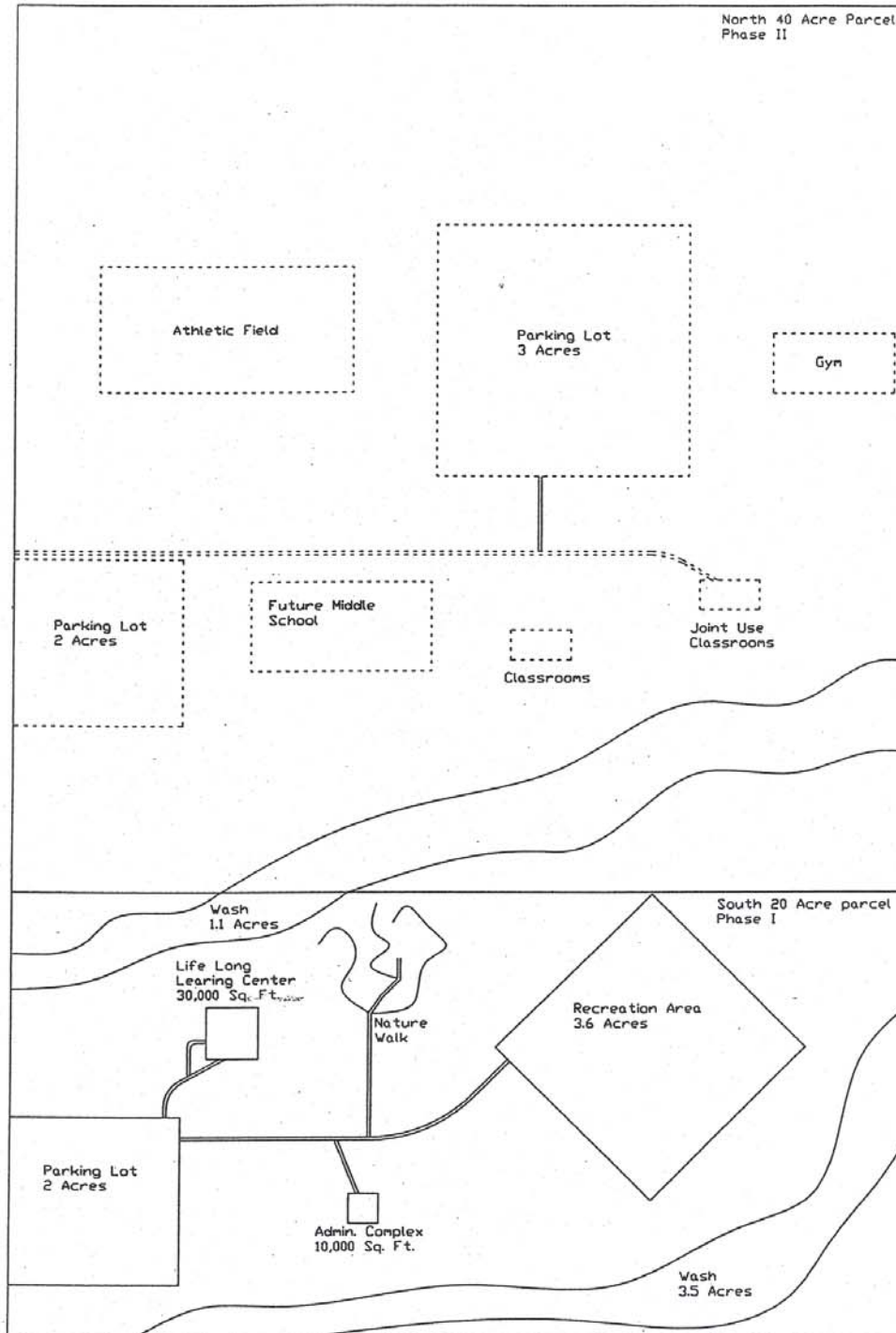






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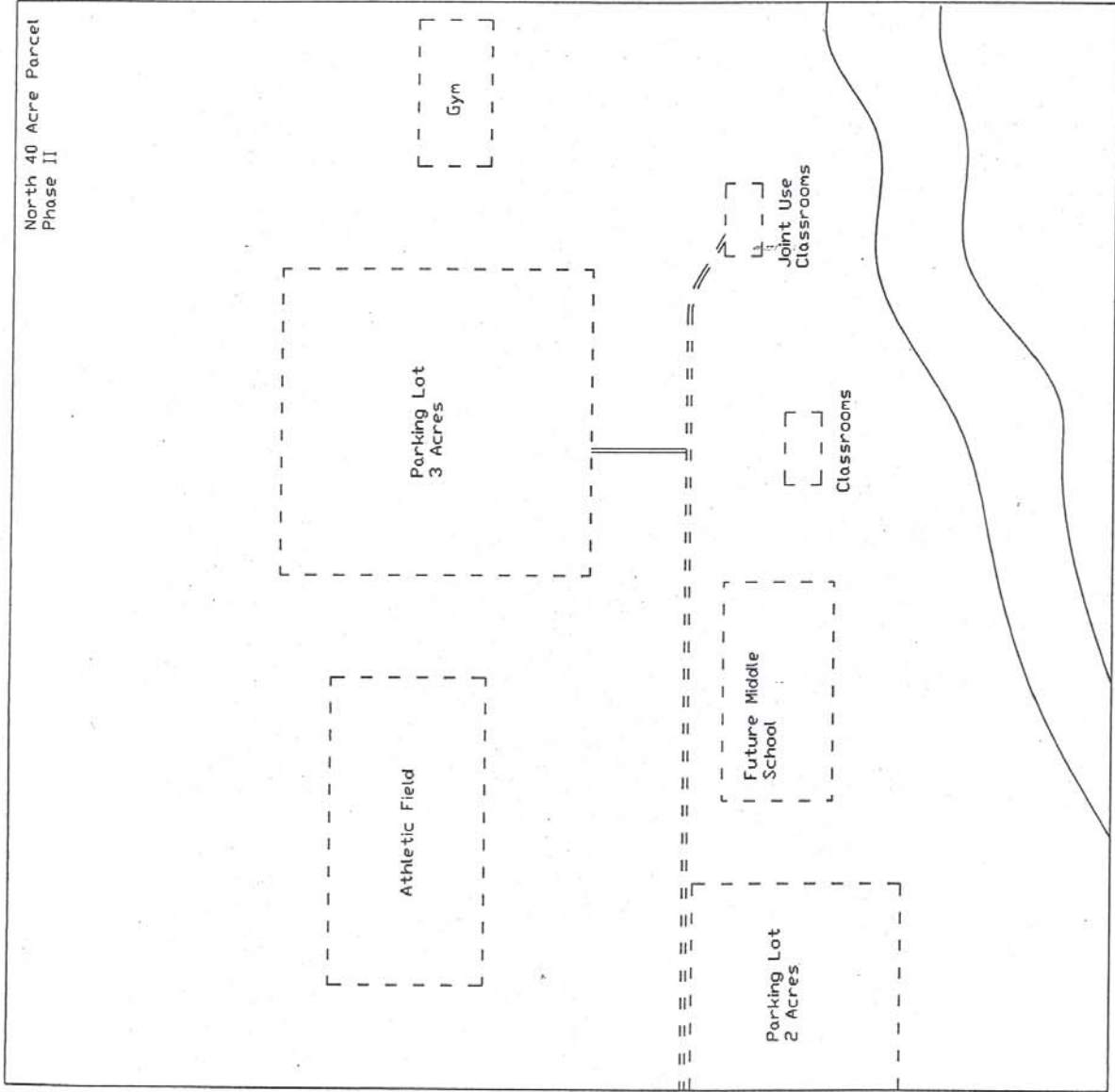
North 40 Acre Parcel  
Phase II



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North 40 Acre Parcel  
Phase II





## EXHIBIT B

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**Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District  
Arizona Western College  
Quartzsite Educational Site Development  
Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act  
Lease Application AZA 32644**

**Special Stipulations**

1. No signs or advertising devices shall be placed on the premises or on adjacent public lands, except those posted by or at the direction of the authorized officer.
2. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.
3. If in connection with operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, the holder shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the authorized officer. The holder shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the authorized officer that operations may resume.
4. The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods (within limits imposed in the lease stipulations).
5. The holder shall clean off-road equipment (power or high-pressure cleaning) of all mud, dirt, and plant parts prior to moving equipment onto public land authorized under this lease.
6. All design, material, and construction, operation, maintenance, and termination practices shall be in accordance with safe and proven engineering practices.
7. The holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coastal and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the holder shall immediately report the incident, in writing, to the authorized officer and the respective installing authority if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management Recreation and Public Purposes

Act lease monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the holder shall secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands in the United States, latest edition. The holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monument, the holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

8. The holder shall survey and clearly mark the centerline and/or exterior limits of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease, as determined by the authorized officer.
9. The holder shall permit free and unrestricted public access to and upon the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease for all lawful purposes except for those specific areas designated as restricted by the authorized officer to protect the public, wildlife, livestock, or facilities constructed within the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease.
10. Holder shall maintain the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer. (A regular maintenance program shall include, but is not limited to, blading, ditching, culvert installation, and surfacing.)
11. Construction sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

#### Desert Tortoise Stipulations

12. A desert tortoise protection education program shall be presented to all employees, inspectors, supervisors, contractors, and subcontractors who carry out proposed activities at the project site. The education program shall include discussions of the following:
  - The legal and sensitive status of the tortoise;
  - A brief discussion of tortoise life, history, and ecology;
  - Mitigation measures designed to reduce adverse effects to tortoises; and
  - Protocols to follow if a tortoise is encountered, including appropriate contact points.
13. The project proponent shall designate a field contact representative (FCR) who shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with these mitigation measures and for coordination on compliance with the BLM. The FCR and authorized/qualified biologist(s) shall have the authority and the responsibility to halt all project activities that are in violation of these mitigation measures. The FCR shall be responsible for oversight of compliance with these mitigation measures, coordination with permitting agencies, land managers, and State Game and Fish Departments; and shall serve as a contact point for personnel that encounter desert

tortoises. The FCR shall be on site during project activities and shall be familiar with and have a copy of these mitigation measures.

14. If a tortoise is found in a project area, activities shall be modified to avoid injuring or harming it. If activities cannot be modified, tortoises shall be moved from harm's way. Upon discovery of a desert tortoise in harm's way, the authorized biologist shall translocate the animal the minimum distance possible (but not more than 2 miles) within appropriate habitat to ensure its safety from death, injury, or collection associated with the project or other activities. The authorized biologist shall be allowed some discretion to ensure that survival of each relocated desert tortoise is likely. Desert tortoises shall not be translocated to lands outside the administration of the Federal government without the written permission of the landowner.
15. Only biologists authorized by the BLM and the appropriate State Fish and Game Department shall handle desert tortoises. The holder shall submit the name(s) of the proposed authorized biologist(s) to the BLM for review and approval at least 45 days prior to the onset of activities that could result in a take.
16. Construction sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times. The project proponent shall be responsible for controlling and limiting litter, trash, and garbage by immediately placing refuse in predator-proof, sealable receptacles. Trash and debris shall be moved when construction is complete.
17. No unleashed pets (e.g., dogs) shall be allowed on the construction site.

## EXHIBIT C

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**EDR NEPACheck®**



**Proposed AWC Quartzsite Property  
North Kofa Road  
Quartzsite, AZ 85344**

**Inquiry Number: 01176953.1r**

**April 21, 2004**

**The Standard in  
Environmental Risk  
Management Information**

440 Wheelers Farms Road  
Milford, Connecticut 06460

**Nationwide Customer Service**

Telephone: 1-800-352-0050  
Fax: 1-800-231-6802  
Internet: [www.edrnet.com](http://www.edrnet.com)

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***Thank you for your business.***  
Please contact EDR at 1-800-352-0050  
with any questions or comments.

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## EDR NEPACheck® DESCRIPTION

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that Federal agencies include in their decision-making processes appropriate and careful consideration of all environmental effects and actions, analyze potential environmental effects of proposed actions and their alternatives for public understanding and scrutiny, avoid or minimize adverse effects of proposed actions, and restore and enhance environmental quality as much as possible.

The EDR NEPACheck provides information which may be used, in conjunction with additional research, to determine whether a proposed site or action will have significant environmental effect.

The report provides maps and data for the following items (where available). Search results are provided in the Map Findings Summary on page 2 of this report.

Section	Regulation
<b>Natural Areas Map</b>	
• Federal Lands Data:	
- Officially designated wilderness areas	47 CFR 1.1307(1)
- Officially designated wildlife preserves, sanctuaries and refuges	47 CFR 1.1307(2)
- Wild and scenic rivers	40 CFR 6.302(e)
- Fish and Wildlife	40 CFR 6.302
• Threatened or Endangered Species, Fish and Wildlife, Critical Habitat Data (where available)	47 CFR 1.1307(3); 40 CFR 6.302
<b>Historic Sites Map</b>	
• National Register of Historic Places	47 CFR 1.1307(4); 40 CFR 6.302
• State Historic Places (where available)	
<b>Flood Plain Map</b>	
• National Flood Plain Data (where available)	47 CFR 1.1307(6); 40 CFR 6.302
<b>Wetlands Map</b>	
• National Wetlands Inventory Data (where available)	47 CFR 1.1307(7); 40 CFR 6.302
<b>FCC &amp; FAA Map</b>	
• FCC antenna/tower sites, AM Radio Towers, FAA Markings and Obstructions, AM Radio Interference Zones, Airports, Topographic gradient	47 CFR 1.1307(8)
<b>Key Contacts and Government Records Searched</b>	



## MAP FINDINGS SUMMARY

The databases searched in this report are listed below. Database descriptions and other agency contact information is contained in the Key Contacts and Government Records Searched section on page 20 of this report.

### TARGET PROPERTY ADDRESS

PROPOSED AWC QUARTZSITE PROPERTY  
NORTH KOFA ROAD  
QUARTZSITE, AZ 85344

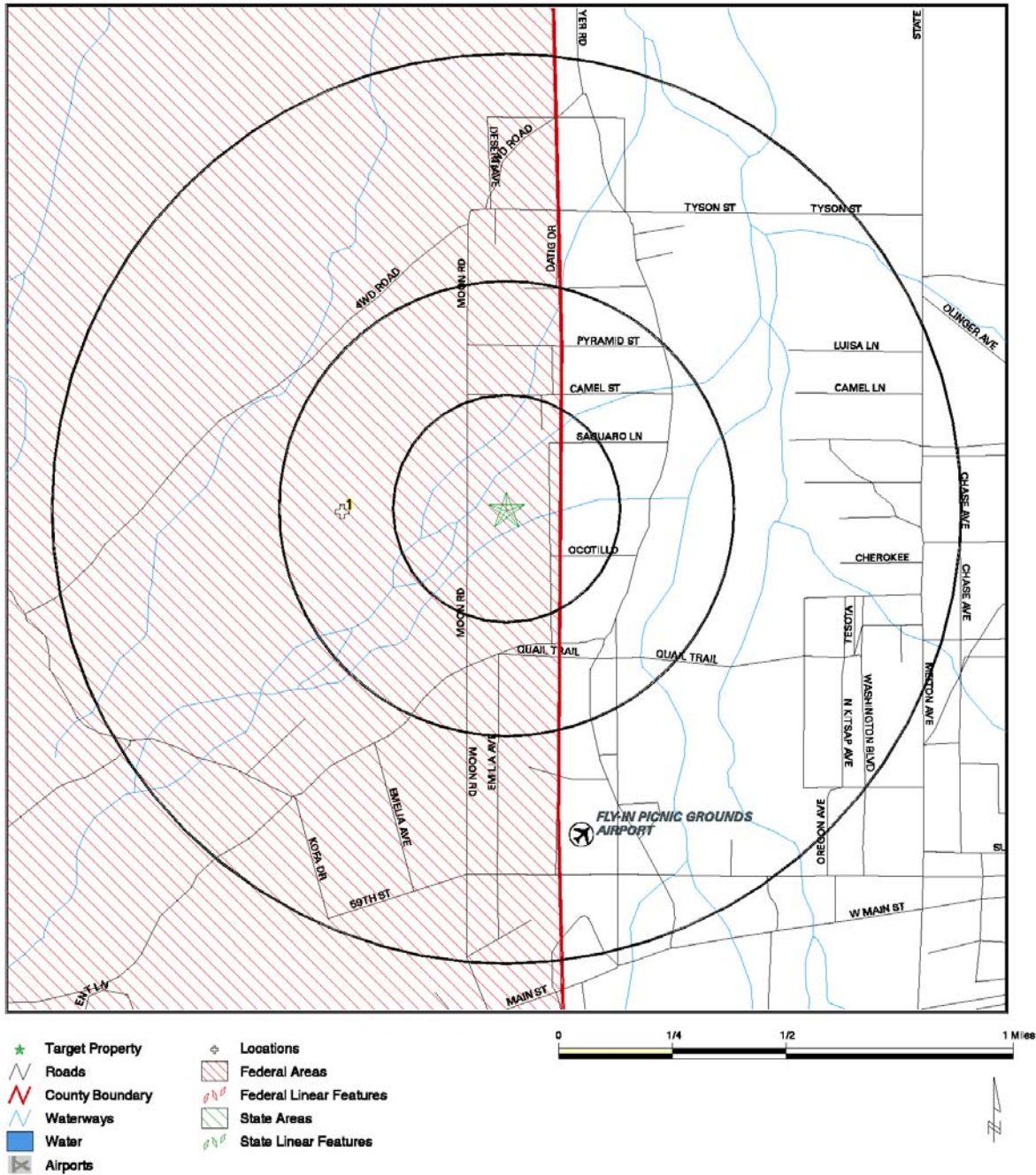
Inquiry #: 01176953.1r  
Date: 4/21/4

### TARGET PROPERTY COORDINATES

Latitude (North): 33.679298 - 33° 40' 45.5"  
Longitude (West): 114.232803 - 114° 13' 58.1"  
Universal Transverse Mercator: Zone 11  
UTM X (Meters): 756545.7  
UTM Y (Meters): 3729842.0

Applicable Regulation from 47 CFR/FCC Checklist	Database	Search Distance (Miles)	Within Search	Within 1/8 Mile
<b>NATURAL AREAS MAP</b>				
1.1307a (1) Officially Designated Wilderness Area	US Federal Lands	1.00	YES	YES
1.1307a (2) Officially Designated Wildlife Preserve	US Federal Lands	1.00	YES	YES
1.1307a (2) Officially Designated Wildlife Preserve	AZ Wilderness Areas	1.00	NO	NO
1.1307a (3) Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical Habitat	County Endangered Species	County	YES	N/A
<b>HISTORIC SITES MAP</b>				
1.1307a (4) Listed or eligible for National Register	National Register Hist. Places	1.00	NO	NO
1.1307a (4) Listed or eligible for National Register	AZ Historic Sites	1.00	NO	NO
<b>FLOODPLAIN MAP</b>				
1.1307 (6) Located in a Flood Plain	FLOODPLAIN	1.00	NO	NO
<b>WETLANDS MAP</b>				
1.1307 (7) Change in surface features (wetland fill)	NWI	1.00	NO	NO
<b>FCC &amp; FAA SITES MAP</b>				
	FCC Cellular	1.00	NO	NO
	FCC Antenna	1.00	NO	NO
	FCC Tower	1.00	NO	NO
	FCC AM Tower	1.00	NO	NO
	FAA DOF	1.00	YES	NO
	Airports	1.00	YES	YES
	Power Lines	1.00	NO	NO

# Natural Areas Map



**TARGET PROPERTY:** Proposed AWC Quartzsite Property  
**ADDRESS:** North Kofa Road  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Quartzsite AZ 85344  
**LAT/LONG:** 33.6793 / 114.2328

**CUSTOMER:** Riverside Environmental Svcs.  
**CONTACT:** Mariah Arnold  
**INQUIRY #:** 01176953.1r  
**DATE:** April 21, 2004

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## NATURAL AREAS MAP FINDINGS

### Endangered Species Listed for: LA PAZ County, AZ.

Source: EPA Endangered Species Protection Program Database

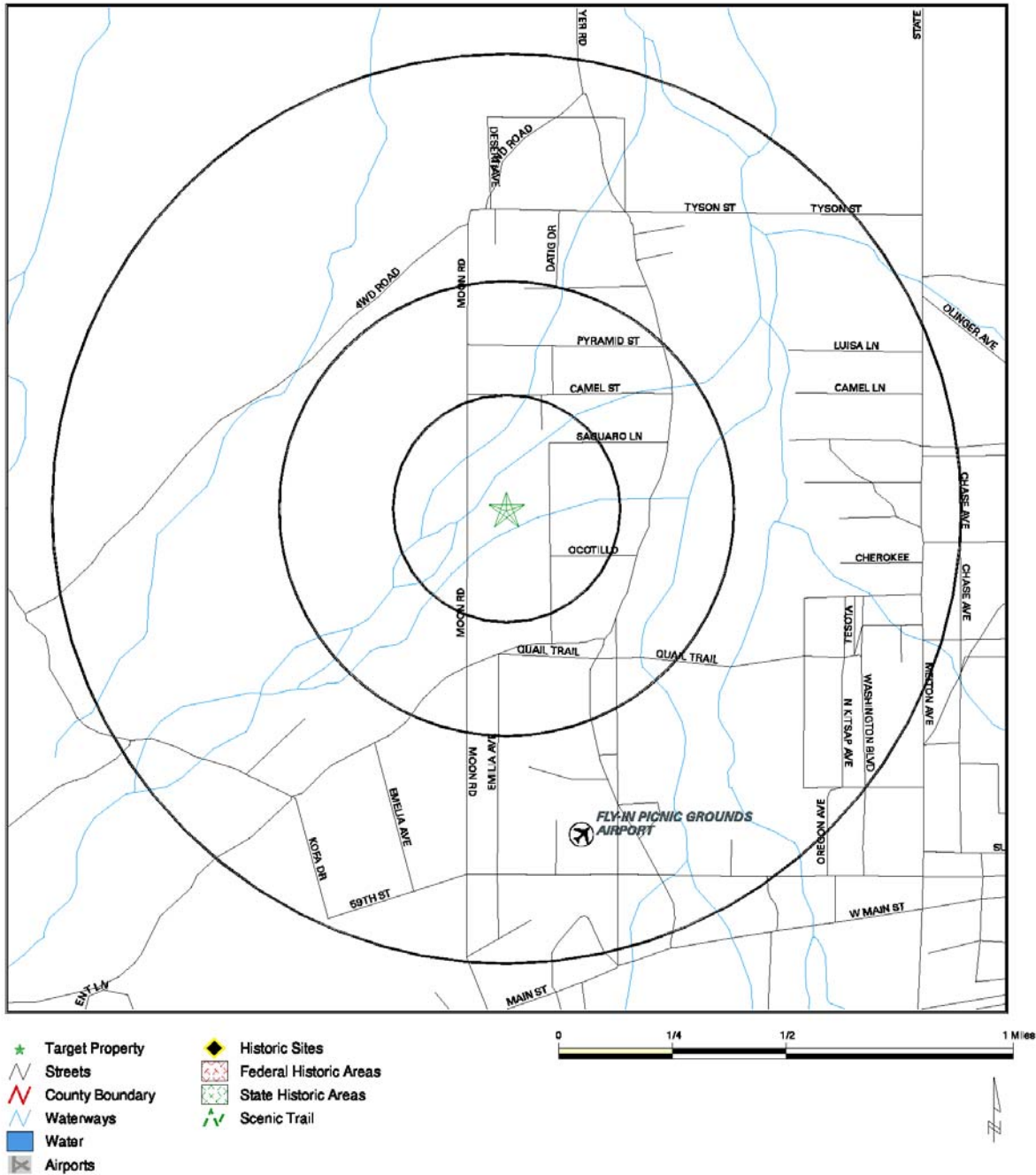
BIRD: EAGLE, BALD  
 BIRD: RAIL, YUMA CLAPPER  
 FISH: CHUB, BONYTAIL  
 FISH: SUCKER, RAZORBACK  
 FISH: PUPFISH, DESERT

Map ID  
 Direction  
 Distance  
 Distance (ft.)

EDR ID  
 Database

1	Feature1:	Public Domain Land BLM	
North	Feature2:	Not Reported	US00039473
0-1/8 mi	Feature3:	Not Reported	US Federal Lands
0	Agbur:	Bureau of Land Management.	
	Url:	Not Reported	
	Name1:	Not Reported	
	Name2:	Not Reported	
	Name3:	Not Reported	
	State:	AZ-CA	
	State fips:	04-06	

# Historic Sites Map



**TARGET PROPERTY:** Proposed AWC Quartzsite Property  
**ADDRESS:** North Kofa Road  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Quartzsite AZ 85344  
**LAT/LONG:** 33.6793 / 114.2328

**CUSTOMER:** Riverside Environmental Svcs.  
**CONTACT:** Mariah Arnold  
**INQUIRY #:** 01176953.1r  
**DATE:** April 21, 2004

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## HISTORIC SITES MAP FINDINGS

Map ID  
Direction  
Distance  
Distance (ft.)

EDR ID  
Database

No mapped sites were found in EDR's search of available government records within the search radius around the target property.

## UNMAPPABLE HISTORIC SITES

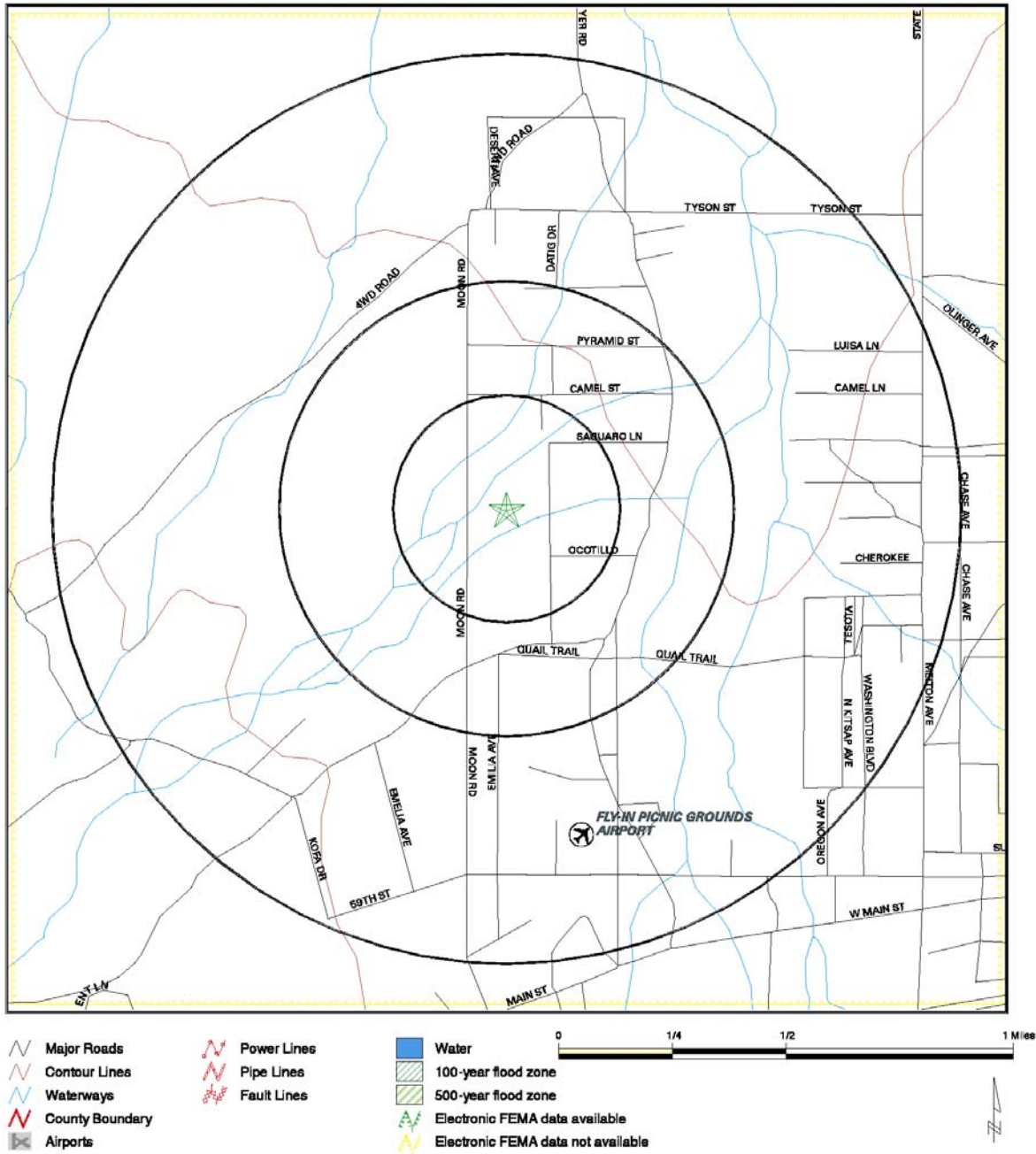
Due to poor or inadequate address information, the following sites were not mapped:

Status  
EDR ID  
Database

No unmapped sites were found in EDR's search of available government records.



## Flood Plain Map



**TARGET PROPERTY:** Proposed AWC Quartzsite Property  
**ADDRESS:** North Kofa Road  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Quartzsite AZ 85344  
**LAT/LONG:** 33.6793 / 114.2328

**CUSTOMER:** Riverside Environmental Svcs.  
**CONTACT:** Mariah Arnold  
**INQUIRY #:** 01176953.1r  
**DATE:** April 21, 2004

TC01176953.1r Page 8 of 26

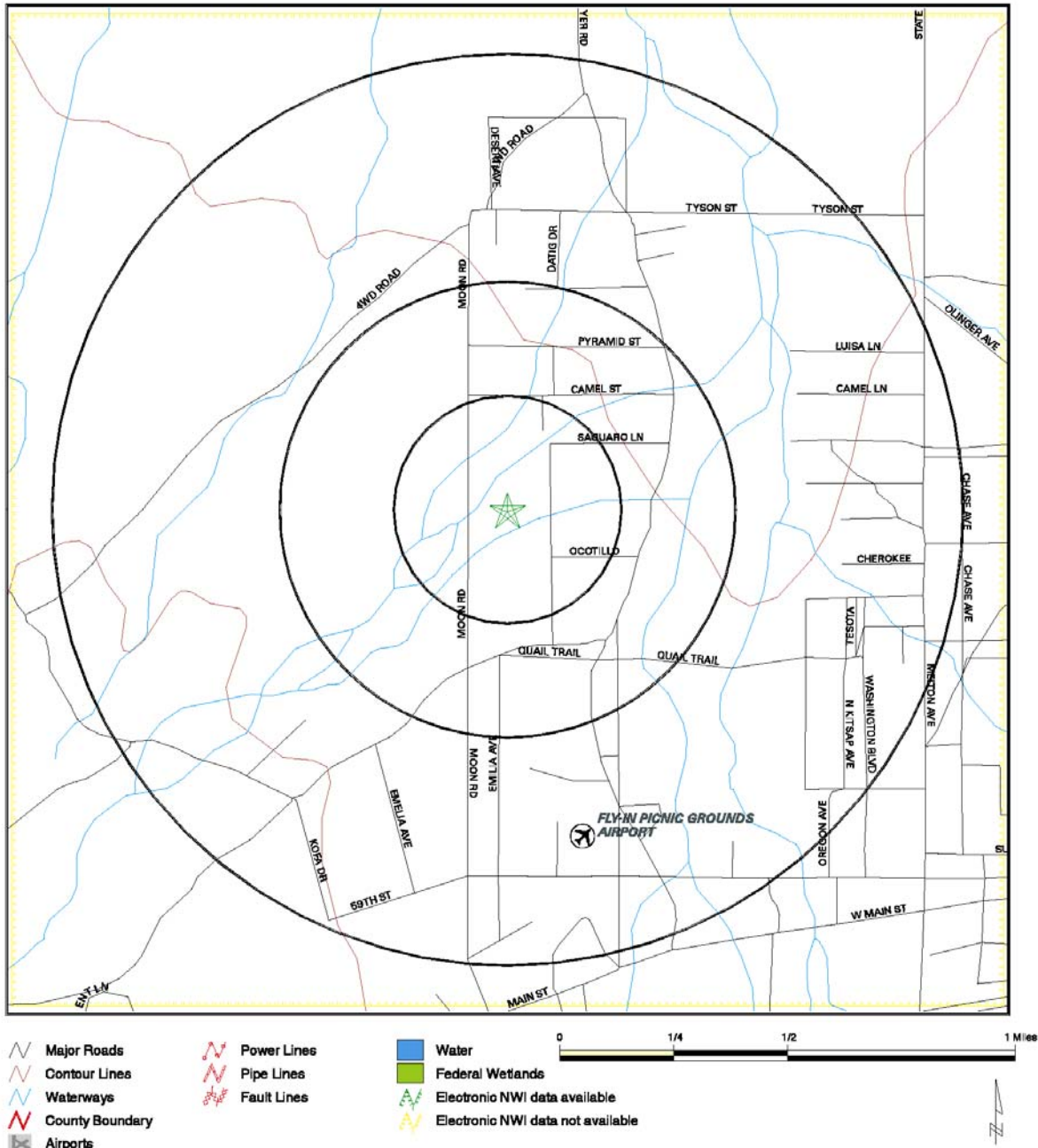
## FLOOD PLAIN MAP FINDINGS

Source: FEMA Q3 Flood Data

County	FEMA flood data electronic coverage
LA PAZ, AZ	NO
Flood Plain panel at target property:	None Reported
Additional Flood Plain panel(s) in search area:	None Reported



# National Wetlands Inventory Map



**TARGET PROPERTY:** Proposed AWC Quartzsite Property  
**ADDRESS:** North Kofa Road  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Quartzsite AZ 85344  
**LAT/LONG:** 33.6793 / 114.2328

**CUSTOMER:** Riverside Environmental Svcs.  
**CONTACT:** Mariah Arnold  
**INQUIRY #:** 01176953.1r  
**DATE:** April 21, 2004

TC01176953.1r Page 10 of 26

## WETLANDS MAP FINDINGS

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service NWI data

NWI hardcopy map at target property: Quartzsite

Additional NWI hardcopy map(s) in search area:  
Not reported in source data

Map ID

Direction

Distance

Distance (ft.)

Code and Description\*

Database

No Sites Reported.

\*See Wetland Classification System for additional information.

## WETLANDS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

National Wetland Inventory Maps are produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a sub-department of the U.S. Department of the Interior. In 1974, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a criteria for wetland classification with four long range objectives:

- to describe ecological units that have certain homogeneous natural attributes,
- to arrange these units in a system that will aid decisions about resource management,
- to furnish units for inventory and mapping, and
- to provide uniformity in concepts and terminology throughout the U.S.

High altitude infrared photographs, soil maps, topographic maps and site visits are the methods used to gather data for the productions of these maps. In the infrared photos, wetlands appear as different colors and these wetlands are then classified by type. Using a hierarchical classification, the maps identify wetland and deepwater habitats according to:

- system
- subsystem
- class
- subclass
- modifiers

(as defined by Cowardin, et al. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FWS/OBS 79/31. 1979.)

The classification system consists of five systems:

1. marine
2. estuarine
3. riverine
4. lacustrine
5. palustrine

The marine system consists of deep water tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands. The riverine system consists of all wetlands contained within a channel. The lacustrine systems includes all nontidal wetlands related to swamps, bogs & marshes. The estuarine system consists of deepwater tidal habitats and where ocean water is diluted by fresh water. The palustrine system includes nontidal wetlands dominated by trees and shrubs and where salinity is below .5% in tidal areas. All of these systems are divided in subsystems and then further divided into class.

National Wetland Inventory Maps are produced by transferring gathered data on a standard 7.5 minute U.S.G.S. topographic map. Approximately 52 square miles are covered on a National Wetland Inventory map at a scale of 1:24,000. Electronic data is compiled by digitizing these National Wetland Inventory Maps.

**SYSTEM**

**MARINE**

**SUBSYSTEM**

**1 - SUBTIDAL**

**2 - INTERTIDAL**

CLASS	RB-ROCK BOTTOM	UB-UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM	AB-AQUATIC BED	RF-REEF	OW-OPEN WATER / Unknown Bottom	AB-AQUATIC BED	RF-REEF	RS-ROCKY SHORE	US-UNCONSOLIDATED SHORE
Subclass	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Algal 3 Rooted Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent	1 Coral 3 Worm		1 Algal 3 Rooted Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent	1 Coral 3 Worm	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic

**SYSTEM**

**E - ESTUARINE**

**SUBSYSTEM**

**1 - SUBTIDAL**

CLASS	RB-ROCK BOTTOM	UB-UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM	AB-AQUATIC BED	RF-REEF	OW-OPEN WATER / Unknown Bottom
Subclass	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Algal 3 Rooted Vascular 4 Floating Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent 6 Unknown Surface	2 Mollusk 3 Worm	

**SUBSYSTEM**

**2 - INTERTIDAL**

CLASS	AB-AQUATIC BED	RF-REEF	SB - STREAMBED	RS-ROCKY SHORE	US-UNCONSOLIDATED SHORE	EM-EMERGENT	SS-SCRUB SHRUB	FO-FORESTED
Subclass	1 Algal 3 Rooted Vascular 4 Floating Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent 6 Unknown Surface	2 Mollusk 3 Worm	1 Cobble- Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble- Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Persistent 2 Nonpersistent	1 Broad-Leaved Deciduous 2 Needle-Leaved Deciduous 3 Broad-Leaved Evergreen 4 Needle-Leaved Evergreen 5 Dead 6 Deciduous 7 Evergreen	1 Broad-Leaved Deciduous 2 Needle-Leaved Deciduous 3 Broad-Leaved Evergreen 4 Needle-Leaved Evergreen 5 Dead 6 Deciduous 7 Evergreen

# SYSTEM

## R - RIVERINE

### SUBSYSTEM

1 - TIDAL	2 - LOWER PERENNIAL	3 - UPPER PERENNIAL	4 - INTERMITTENT	5 - UNKNOWN PERENNIAL			
RB-ROCK BOTTOM	UB-UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM	**SB-STREAMBED	AB-AQUATIC BED	RS-ROCKY SHORE	US-UNCONSOLIDATED SHORE	**EM-EMERGENT	OW-OPEN WATER/ Unknown Bottom
1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble 3 Cobble-Gravel 4 Sand 5 Mud 6 Organic 7 Vegetated	1 Algal 2 Aquatic Moss 3 Rooted Vascular 4 Floating Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent 6 Unknown Surface	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic 5 Vegetated	2 Nonpersistent	

\* STREAMBED is limited to TIDAL and INTERMITTENT SUBSYSTEMS, and comprises the only CLASS in the INTERMITTENT SUBSYSTEM.  
 \*\*EMERGENT is limited to TIDAL and LOWER PERENNIAL SUBSYSTEMS.

# SYSTEM

## L - LACUSTRINE

### SUBSYSTEM

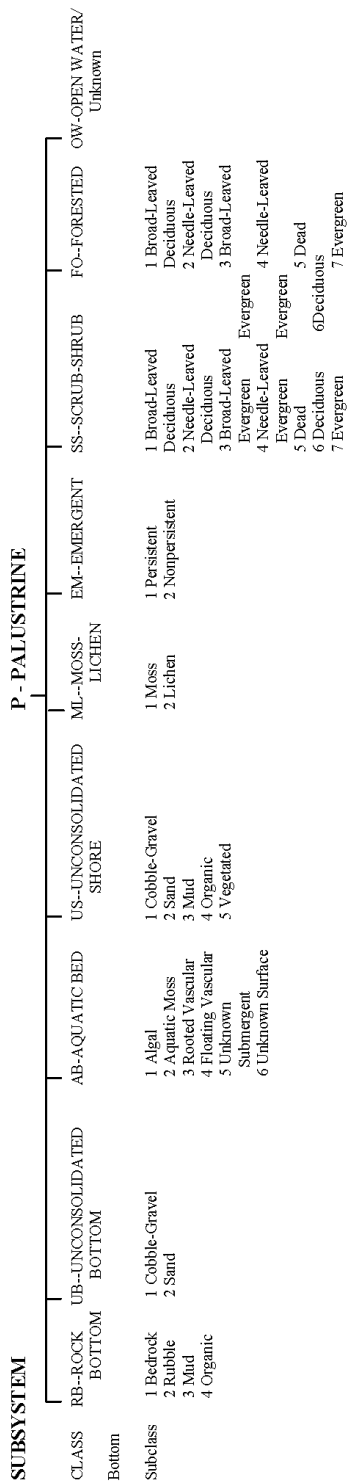
#### 1 - LIMNETIC

CLASS	RB-ROCK BOTTOM	UB-UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM	AB-AQUATIC BED	OW-OPEN WATER/ Unknown Bottom
Subclass	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Algal 2 Aquatic Moss 3 Rooted Vascular 4 Floating Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent 6 Unknown Surface	

### SUBSYSTEM

#### 2 - LITTORAL

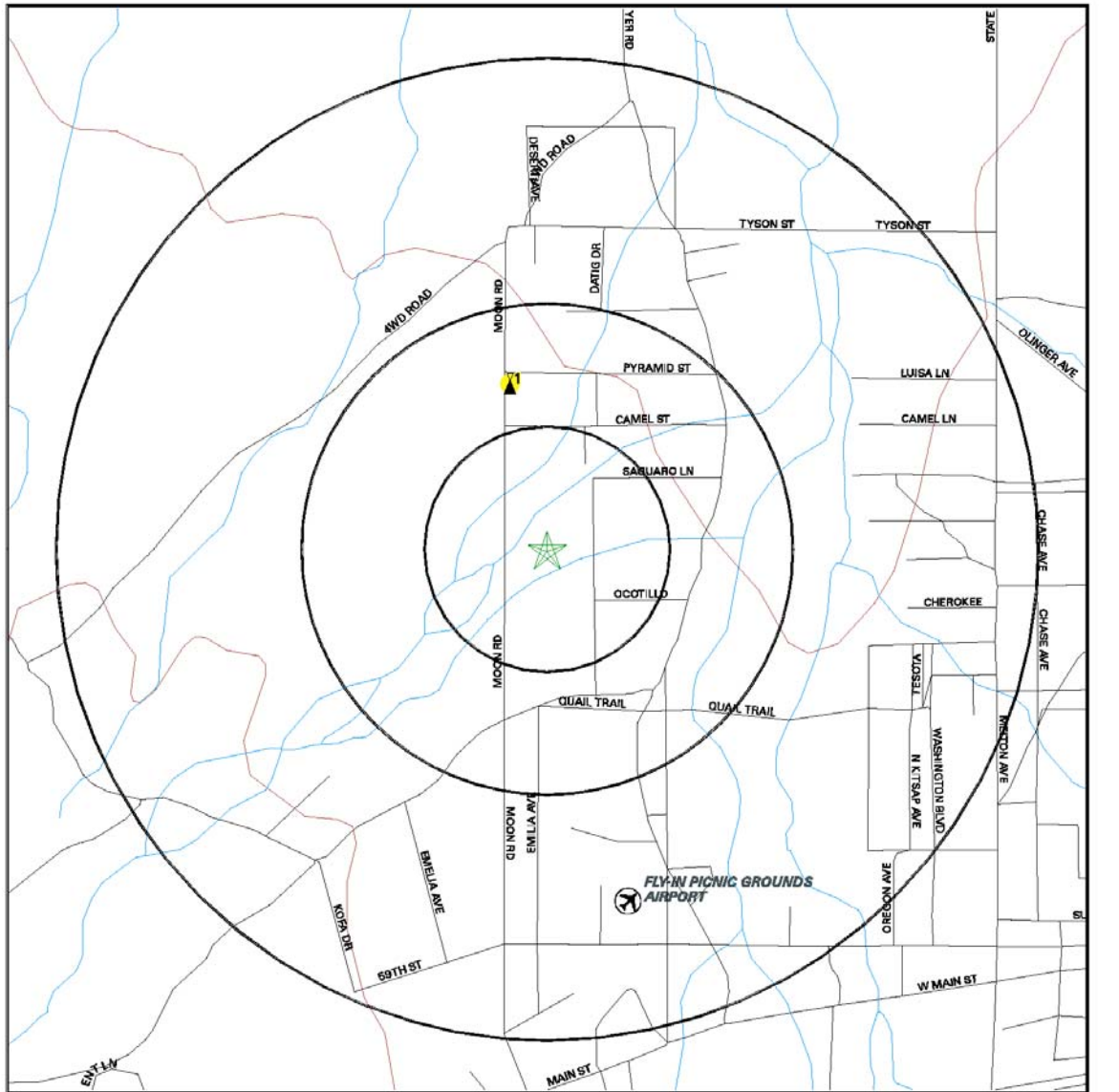
CLASS	RB-ROCK BOTTOM	UB-UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM	AB-AQUATIC BED	RS-ROCKY SHORE	US-UNCONSOLIDATED SHORE	EM-EMERGENT	OW-OPEN WATER/ Unknown Bottom
Subclass	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic	1 Algal 2 Aquatic Moss 3 Rooted Vascular 4 Floating Vascular 5 Unknown Submergent 6 Unknown Surface	1 Bedrock 2 Rubble	1 Cobble-Gravel 2 Sand 3 Mud 4 Organic 5 Vegetated	2 Nonpersistent	



MODIFIERS			
In order to more adequately describe wetland and deepwater habitats one or more of the water regime, water chemistry, soil, or special modifiers may be applied at the class or lower level in the hierarchy. The famed modifier may also be applied to the ecological system.			
WATER REGIME		WATER CHEMISTRY	
Non-Tidal	Tidal	SPECIAL MODIFIERS	
A Temporarily Flooded B Saturated C Seasonally Flooded D Seasonally Flooded/Well Drained E Seasonally Flooded/Saturated F Semipermanently Flooded G Intermittently Exposed	H Permanently Flooded J Intermittently Flooded K Artificially Flooded L Subtidal M Irregularly Exposed N Regularly Flooded P Irregularly Flooded Y Saturated/Semipermanent/Seasonal Z Intermittently Exposed/Permanent U Unknown	Coastal Salinity Inland Salinity pH Modifier s for	all Fresh Water a Acid t Circumneutral i Alkaline 7 Hypersaline 8 Eusaline 9 Mixosaline 0 Fresh 1 Hyperhaline 2 Euhaline 3 Mixohaline (Brackish) 4 Polyhaline 5 Mesohaline 6 Oligohaline 0 Fresh
*These water regimes are only used in tidally influenced, freshwater systems.		b Beaver d Partially Drained/Ditched f Famed h Diked/Impounded r Artificial Substrate s Spoil x Excavated	g Organic n Mineral

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Wetlands Inventory

# FCC & FAA Sites Map



- Streets
- Contour Lines
- County Boundary
- Waterways
- Power Lines
- Water
- Airports
- Sites
- Omni Directional AM Interference
- Directional AM Interference

0 1/4 1/2 1 Mile



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**CUSTOMER:** Riverside Environmental Svcs.  
**CONTACT:** Mariah Arnold  
**INQUIRY #:** 01176953.1r  
**DATE:** April 21, 2004

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## FCC & FAA SITES MAP FINDINGS TOWERS

Map ID  
Direction  
Distance  
Distance (ft.)

EDR ID  
Database

1			DOF000000013366
NNW			FAA DOF
1/4-1/2 mi			
1825			
Unique ID:	30382	Obstruction #:	0382
City:	QUARTZSITE	State:	Arizona
Verification Status:	verified	Obstruction Type:	POLE
Latitude:	33 41 03N	Longitude:	114 14 00W
Frequency:	Not Reported	Type of Lighting: No Lights	
Above Ground Level Height (Ft.):		0070	
Above Mean Sea Level Height (Ft.):		00930	
Horizontal Accuracy:	+/-500'	Vertical Accuracy:	+/-125'
Painted/Marked:	No	FAA Study #:	7610 Form



## FCC & FAA SITES MAP FINDINGS AIRPORTS

EDR ID  
Database

AIR01367  
AIRPORTS

Site Number: 00766.1\*A  
Airport Type: AIRPORT  
County: LA PAZ  
Facility Name: FLY-IN PICNIC GROUNDS  
Use: PR  
Owner Address: P.O BOX 156, 40 N MAIN  
Phone: 801-562-5748  
Mgmt Address: Not Reported  
Mgmt Phone: Not Reported  
Longitude: 114-13-47.815W  
Elev (ft): 880  
Aero chart: PHOENIX  
Dir from Business: W  
Certified Date: Not Reported  
Is Int'l Airport?: Not Reported  
Inspection Method: 2  
Last inspected: Not Reported  
Lighting: Not Reported  
Beacon Color: Not Reported  
Single engine: 001  
Jet engines: Not Reported  
Gliders: Not Reported  
Ultralights: Not Reported  
Air taxis: Not Reported

Runway id: 15/33  
Width: 50  
Lights Intensity: Not Reported  
Markings: Not Reported  
Longitude: Not Reported  
Approach lights: Not Reported  
Centerline Lights: Not Reported  
Recip End ID: 33  
Recip Lat: Not Reported  
Recip Elev: Not Reported  
Recip End Lgts: Not Reported

State: ARIZONA  
City: QUARTZSITE  
Owner type: PR  
Owner: M LA MAR WALKER-JAMES E KIRK  
City/State: MIDVALE, UTAH 84047  
Mgmt Name: Not Reported  
Mgmt City/St: Not Reported  
Latitude: 33-40-08.089N  
Lat Method: E  
Elev method: E  
Dist from Business: 01  
Date Active: 04/1993  
Fed agreements: Not Reported  
Is Customs Airport?: Not Reported  
Inspected by: N  
Attendance: UNATNDD  
Has ATC Tower: N  
Landing fee: Not Reported  
Multi engine: Not Reported  
Helicopters: Not Reported  
Military: Not Reported  
Commercial: Not Reported  
Local ops: Not Reported

Length: 2950  
Surface: DIRT  
Base End Id: 15  
Latitude: Not Reported  
Elevation: Not Reported  
End Lights: Not Reported  
Touchdown Lights: Not Reported  
Recip markings: Not Reported  
Recip Long: Not Reported  
Recip App Lgts: Not Reported  
Recip Ctr Lgts: Not Reported

**FCC & FAA SITES MAP FINDINGS  
POWERLINES**

EDR ID  
Database

No Sites Reported.

## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

Various Federal laws and executive orders address specific environmental concerns. NEPA requires the responsible offices to integrate to the greatest practical extent the applicable procedures required by these laws and executive orders. EDR provides key contacts at agencies charged with implementing these laws and executive orders to supplement the information contained in this report.

### NATURAL AREAS

#### Officially designated wilderness areas

##### Government Records Searched in This Report

FED\_LAND: Federal Lands

Source: USGS

Telephone: 703-648-5094

Federal data from Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- National Parks
- Forests
- Monuments
- Wildlife Sanctuaries, Preserves, Refuges
- Federal Wilderness Areas.
- Indian Reservations

Date of Government Version: 09/01/1997

##### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

National Park Service, Intermountain Region

12795 Alameda Parkway

Denver, CO 80225

303-969-2500

USDA Forest Service, Southwestern

Federal Building 517 Gold Avenue, S.W.

Albuquerque, NM 87102

505-842-3214

BLM - Arizona State Office

222 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85004-2203

602-417-9200

Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2

P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Ave., S.W.

Albuquerque, NM 87103

505-248-6925

#### Officially designated wildlife preserves, sanctuaries and refuges

##### Government Records Searched in This Report

FED\_LAND: Federal Lands

Source: USGS

Telephone: 703-648-5094

Federal data from Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- National Parks
- Forests
- Monuments
- Wildlife Sanctuaries, Preserves, Refuges
- Federal Wilderness Areas.
- Indian Reservations

Date of Government Version: 09/01/1997

## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

### AZ Wilderness Areas: Wilderness Areas

Includes Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service Riparian Natural Conservation Areas, Wilderness Study areas and Wilderness or Primitive areas

Source: State Land Dept.

Telephone: 602-542-4709

### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2

P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Ave., S.W.

Albuquerque, NM 87103

505-248-6925

### State Contacts for Additional Information

Department of Fish & Game 602-942-3000

### **Wild and scenic rivers**

#### Government Records Searched in This Report

FED\_LAND: Federal Lands

Source: USGS

Telephone: 703-648-5094

Federal data from Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- National Parks
- Forests
- Monuments
- Wildlife Sanctuaries, Preserves, Refuges
- Federal Wilderness Areas.
- Indian Reservations

Date of Government Version: 09/01/1997

### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2

P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Ave., S.W.

Albuquerque, NM 87103

505-248-6925

### **Endangered Species**

#### Government Records Searched in This Report

Endangered Species Protection Program Database

A listing of endangered species by county.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Telephone: 703-305-5239

### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2

P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Ave., S.W.

Albuquerque, NM 87103

505-248-6925

### State Contacts for Additional Information

Heritage Data Mgmt. System, Game & Fish Department 602-789-3612

## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

### LANDMARKS, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

#### Historic Places

##### Government Records Searched in This Report

##### National Register of Historic Places:

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. These contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the nation. The National Register includes:

- All prehistoric and historic units of the National Park System;
- National Historic Landmarks, which are properties recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance; and
- Properties significant in American, state, or local prehistory and history that have been nominated by State Historic Preservation Officers, federal agencies, and others, and have been approved for listing by the National Park Service.

Date of Government Version: 03/15/2000

##### AZ Historic Sites: Arizona State Register List

Listing of historic sites included on the State Register.

Source: State Historic Preservation Office. State Parks

Telephone: 602-542-4009

##### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Park Service; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240

Phone: (202) 208-6843

##### State Contacts for Additional Information

Arizona State Parks 602-542-4174

### Indian Religious Sites

##### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Department of the Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs

Office of Public Affairs

1849 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

Office: 202-208-3711

Fax: 202-501-1516

##### National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

1411 K Street NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-628-8476

Fax: 202-628-2241

##### State Contacts for Additional Information

A listing of local Tribal Leaders and Bureau of Indian Affairs Representatives can be found at:

<http://www.doi.gov/bia/areas/agency.html>

##### Navajo Area Office (Navajo Reservations Only), Bureau of Indian Affairs

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, NM 87305

505-863-8314

## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
One North First Street P.O. Box 10  
Phoenix, AZ 85001  
602-379-6600

Historic Preservation Department  
P.O. Box 4950  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Office of Cultural Resources, Hualapai Tribe  
P.O. Box 310  
Peach Springs, AZ 86434

White MT. Apache Tribe  
P.O. Box 1150  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

### FLOOD PLAIN, WETLANDS AND COASTAL ZONE

#### **Flood Plain Management**

##### Government Records Searched in This Report

Flood Zone Data: This data, available in select counties across the country, was obtained by EDR in 1999 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Data depicts 100-year and 500-year flood zones as defined by FEMA.

##### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Federal Emergency Management Agency 877-3362-627

##### State Contacts for Additional Information

Division of Emergency Management 602-231-6242

#### **Wetlands Protection**

##### Government Records Searched in This Report

NWI: National Wetlands Inventory. This data, available in select counties across the country, was obtained by EDR in 2002 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

##### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Fish & Wildlife Service 813-570-5412

##### State Contacts for Additional Information

Game & Fish Department 602-942-3000

## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

### **Coastal Zone Management**

#### Government Records Searched in This Report

##### **CAMA Management Areas**

Dept. of Env., Health & Natural Resources  
919-733-2293

#### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

##### **Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**

N/ORM, SSMC4  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
301-713-3102

#### State Contacts for Additional Information

### **FCC & FAA SITES MAP**

For NEPA actions that come under the authority of the FCC, the FCC requires evaluation of Antenna towers and/or supporting structures that are to be equipped with high intensity white lights which are to be located in residential neighborhoods, as defined by the applicable zoning law.

#### Government Records Searched in This Report

##### **Cellular**

##### **Federal Communications Commission**

Mass Media Bureau  
2nd Floor - 445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554 USA  
Telephone (202) 418-2700

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##### **Tower**

##### **Federal Communications Commission**

Mass Media Bureau  
2nd Floor - 445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554 USA  
Telephone (202) 418-2700

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##### **Antenna Registration**

##### **Federal Communications Commission**

Mass Media Bureau  
2nd Floor - 445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554 USA  
Telephone (202) 418-2700

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##### **AM Tower**

##### **Federal Communications Commission**

Mass Media Bureau  
2nd Floor - 445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554 USA  
Telephone (202) 418-2700

## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

### **FAA Digital Obstacle File**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Telephone: 301-436-8301

Describes known obstacles of interest to aviation users in the US. Used by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to manage the National Airspace System.

### **Airport Landing Facilities**

Federal Aviation Administration

Telephone (800) 457-6656

Private and public use landing facilities.

### **Electric Power Transmission Line Data**

PennWell Corporation

Telephone: (800) 823-6277

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### **Excessive Radio Frequency Emission**

For NEPA actions that come under the authority of the FCC, Commission actions granting construction permits, licenses to transmit or renewals thereof, equipment authorizations or modifications in existing facilities, require the determination of whether the particular facility, operation or transmitter would cause human exposure to levels of radio frequency in excess of certain limits.

### Federal Contacts for Additional Information

Office of Engineering and Technology

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Phone: 202-418-2470

### **OTHER CONTACT SOURCES**

#### **NEPA Single Point of Contact**

State Contacts for Additional Information

Arizona State Clearinghouse

3800 N. Central Avenue

Fourteenth Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85012

602-280-1315



## KEY CONTACTS & GOVERNMENT RECORDS SEARCHED

### STREET AND ADDRESS INFORMATION

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## EXHIBIT D

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*(BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION)*

## EXHIBIT E

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GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING SONORAN DESERT TORTOISES  
ENCOUNTERED ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Revised January 17, 1997

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has developed the following guidelines to reduce potential impacts to desert tortoises, and to promote the continued existence of tortoises throughout the state. These guidelines apply to short-term and/or small-scale projects, depending on the number of affected tortoises and specific type of project.

Desert tortoises of the Sonoran population are those occurring south and east of the Colorado River. Tortoises encountered in the open should be moved out of harm's way to adjacent appropriate habitat. If an occupied burrow is determined to be in jeopardy of destruction, the tortoise should be relocated to the nearest appropriate alternate burrow or other appropriate shelter, as determined by a qualified biologist. Tortoises should be moved less than 48 hours in advance of the habitat disturbance so they do not return to the area in the interim. Tortoises should be moved quickly, kept in an upright position at all times and placed in the shade. Separate disposable gloves should be worn for each tortoise handled to avoid potential transfer of disease between tortoises. Tortoises must not be moved if the ambient air temperature exceeds 105 degrees Fahrenheit unless an alternate burrow is available or the tortoise is in imminent danger.

A tortoise may be moved up to two miles, but no further than necessary from its original location. If a release site, or alternate burrow, is unavailable within this distance, and ambient air temperature exceeds 105 degrees Fahrenheit, the Department should be contacted to place the tortoise into a Department-regulated desert tortoise adoption program. Tortoises salvaged from projects which result in substantial permanent habitat loss (e.g. housing and highway projects), or those requiring removal during long-term (longer than one week) construction projects, will also be placed in desert tortoise adoption programs. *Managers of projects likely to affect desert tortoises should obtain a scientific collecting permit from the Department to facilitate temporary possession of tortoises.* Likewise, if large numbers of tortoises (>5) are expected to be displaced by a project, the project manager should contact the Department for guidance and/or assistance.

Please keep in mind the following points:

- These guidelines do not apply to the Mohave population of desert tortoises (north and west of the Colorado River). Mohave desert tortoises are specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- These guidelines are subject to revision at the discretion of the Department. We recommend that the Department be contacted during the planning stages of any project that may affect desert tortoises.
- Take, possession, or harassment of wild desert tortoises is prohibited by state law. Unless specifically authorized by the Department, or as noted above, project personnel should avoid disturbing any tortoise.

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